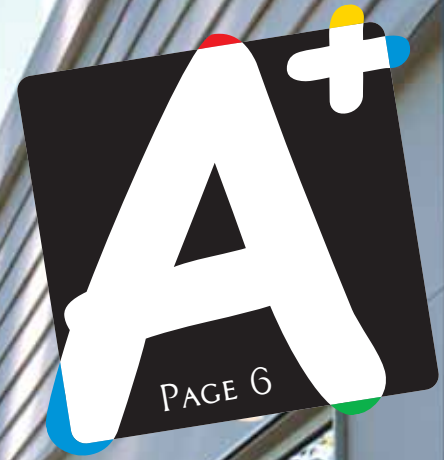




Reston CONNECTION

The transformation of the Coleman house included two decks from which to enjoy the view and watch the goldfish doing their thing in the pond. The theme of the 2016 Reston Home Tour was "Embracing Change." The Colemans have certainly done that.



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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Restonians 'Embrace Change'

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'Yes' or 'No' to the Meals Tax

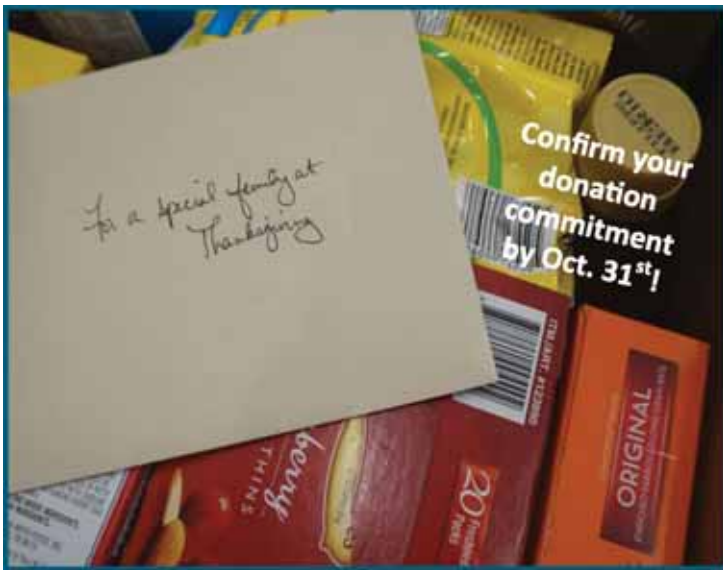
OPINION, PAGE 4

'Voices of Muslim Identity' Take CenterStage

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The still-in-progress, renovated-from-top-to-bottom Coleman house on Putter Lane. The theme of the 2016 Reston Home Tour was “Embracing Change.” The Colemans have certainly done that.



Carol Kristen didn’t mind the volunteer duty, since she is also good friends with the homeowners Steve Kisner and John Lojpersberger of this well-appointed condo in the Oak Park complex, and could cheerfully speak about the kitchen renovations and what the owners have done to maximize the space and put their many treasures on display.

Restonians ‘Embrace Change’

Annual Reston Home Tour features six diverse private homes, and a roam through BLVD, Reston’s newest luxury apartments.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

A mild, sunny autumn day made wandering from one end of Reston to the other a decided pleasure, both for the ticket holders for the annual Reston Home Tour, and for the homeowners who generously put their digs on display. “Really,” said one gentleman volunteer at the stop at the five-story Beacon Heights Derrick/Lashlee

townhouse along Lake Audubon. “I don’t even want to imagine hundreds of soggy visitors marching through this gorgeous house.”

Thankfully, the weather cooperated brilliantly and everyone was able to enjoy the self-guided tours of six diverse private homes, and a roam through BLVD, Reston’s newest luxury apartments, towering over the Wiehle-Reston Metro Station.

THIS YEAR’S THEME was “Embracing

Change.” In the message that introduced the tour’s program, Chair Bonnie Haukness wrote, “Vibrant communities like Reston are constantly changing. Some of the new is met with apprehension, some enthusiastically welcomed. This year’s owners have all embraced change in their lives and in their homes...we are very happy to share their new spaces and stories with you.”

Haukness wasn’t kidding about the change that some of these properties have undergone, some over the years and some as recently as “still in progress.” Probably the dwelling that has seen the most signifi-

cant transformation is the home of Kendall and Tiffany Coleman on Putter Lane. It’s a good thing that the project manager, Rich Coyle of Coyle Construction was on hand during the tour, and that there was a looping slide show that detailed the before and afters of the complete renovation of this property, built in 1968. It might have been difficult otherwise to believe just how many changes were made to update this property, give it more open space, more storage and lots more natural light and some fabulous decks from which to enjoy the signature Reston greenery and the owners’ fish pond.

Malcolm and Kim Gilbreath’s home on Night Star Court shows you what can be done when you put your own heart and soul

SEE HOME TOUR, PAGE 12

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



The steps didn’t keep Liz Bleich and Marilyn Jarvill, both from Reston, from checking out the top floor master suite in the five-story townhouse on Beacon Heights. Luckily for the owners, there is an elevator that services all five floors, but visitors on the tour understandably were directed to the stairs. Bleich has lived in Reston for over thirty years and has attended the tour a few times, while “newbie” Jarvill with “only” fourteen years residency, was making her first appearance at the well attended event.



Now there’s a view – and that’s only from one direction from the 21st floor of the BLVD apartments. Walk around the outdoor space and the giant pool or hang indoors in one of the common areas or in the fitness center and you can watch planes coming and going at Dulles, see the mountains in the distance, or take in the changing landscape of Tysons Corner. Should be a great spot to watch the New Year’s fireworks.

OPINION

No to the Meals Tax Yes to the Meals Tax

A food tax is not a silver bullet.

BY PAT HERRITY
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

I have been opposed to the meals tax from the start, but what has concerned me most over the last several months has been the tactics used to try to convince our residents to vote for it and the county's failure to deal with its spending problems. I would like to offer some clarity on these points and why I am against the meals tax.

The proponents of the meals tax insist the tax is for teachers' salaries and tax relief. In fact, the ballot language referencing schools and tax relief was selected because it was the language that passed in other counties in Virginia and according to one supervisor "we need to use the language that will get it passed." In reality, the Board of Supervisors will decide in April during the budget process how much funding goes to schools and then the School Board will decide how much funding goes to teacher raises and class size reductions. Despite the Board of Supervisors fully funding the School Board's funding request last year, the funds were not focused on fixing our teacher salary issues.

If it passes, the meals tax will just be an additional \$100 million tax on top of the \$100M in taxes the board passed earlier this year (over my opposition). In the last five years, real estate taxes alone have increased 25 percent and skyrocketed by \$565 million. As I have debated proponents of the meals tax over the last several months, there has been almost universal acknowledgement that Fairfax County has a spending problem. For example, Fairfax County offers its 35,000-plus county and school employees and administrators' unparalleled and unsustainable pensions and pre-social security benefits that even surrounding jurisdictions do not

pay. Despite my efforts to address this and other spending problems, there is no plan in place to address these unsustainable costs and benefits. The meals tax is a bad way to kick the can of addressing our spending problems down the road.

The meals tax is also bad way to address a spending problem because it is a regressive tax that targets a single industry and disproportionately hits those who can least afford it — the elderly, single working parents, young students, and people without other options. It is not a white tablecloth restaurant tax; it is a food tax. The meals tax would be on top of the current sales tax resulting in a 10 percent total tax on any prepared food, including the rotisserie chicken from the grocery store, the fountain drink from the convenience store, your morning coffee, and your food truck purchases. It is also a tax on a single industry — one that only has a 3 percent profit margin on average. This means the meals tax will result in the government making more money off of a restaurant than the restaurant itself makes in profit. This is fundamentally wrong. Restaurants not only provide thousands of young adults with their first job, they also give back to the community through sponsorships and donations.

Fairfax County voters have a decision to make. Do we settle for budget deficits and tax increases year after year, or do we send a message that enough is enough and it is time to address spending issues? I sympathize for those who support the tax; the Board of Supervisors and School Board have led them to believe that the meals tax is some sort of silver bullet to their budget and teacher salaries woes. Simply put, it is not.

Pat Herrity represents the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Reduces dependence on property tax.

BY PHILLIP A. NIEDZIELSKI-
EICHNER

As a businessman here in Fairfax and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board, I write on behalf of a coalition of thousands of homeowners, parents, teachers, firefighters, police, friends and users of our libraries and our parks and recreation facilities, and those who belong to churches and non-profit organizations working to ensure that Fairfax County also protects those in need [www.yesmealstax.org].

Here since 1988, I have always valued Fairfax's pragmatic approach to local government services; i.e., we will pay for the cost of an excellent education system and high-quality services as long as the cost is reasonable and affordable.

Hit with the double whammy of the great recession and the federal budget sequestration fiasco, the Board of Supervisors and School Board did what they had to do under the circumstances — they cut costs and reduced services.

The county reduced annual expenditures by \$300 million and eliminated 700 jobs; for the school system, \$500 million and 2,100 jobs.

The maintenance backlog has grown to over \$150 million in recreation and park facilities alone.

We are spending less in real dollars per pupil this year than in 2008. We are losing our best teachers to surrounding jurisdictions, because salaries are no longer competitive in the region. Class sizes are larger.

Economic recovery has been slow. While home values have grown modestly, vacancies in office buildings are at a 25-year high and revenue from commercial property tax is at historic lows.

Compounding our challenge, state funding — particularly for schools — continues to decline, with a funding shortfall for K 12 education climbing to more than \$1 billion annually since 2009.

With 65 percent of county revenue now being generated by residential property tax, homeowners are carrying a substantial and growing share of the cost of services.

Without a more diverse revenue base, we risk school system excellence and we risk the caliber of county services that underpin our quality of life. In an article earlier this year, the Washington Post characterized this reality as Fairfax "fraying around the edges."

This is the setting for the meals tax referendum before us on Nov. 8.

Five great things will happen by approving the meals tax:

1. \$100 million will be generated. Almost a third of this revenue — \$28 million — will be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax.

2. Seventy percent of the revenues will be directed to the school system to help stem the loss of our best teachers and reduce class size.

3. Our quality of life will be strengthened by addressing unmet police and firefighter needs and those of our libraries and parks.

4. The backlog in county and school facility and infrastructure maintenance needs can be reduced, while also preserving our AAA bond rating.

5. Our tax base will be more diverse, relieving property tax pressure on homeowners.

Incredibly, Fairfax can do these great things by paying pennies-on-the-dollar when we eat out. Few of us ever notice paying Arlington County, Fairfax City, Falls Church and Vienna when we eat in their restaurants, yet we do.

If you agree that it is important to keep the best teachers in our classrooms, reduce class size, continue to protect our safety and maintain our quality of life; and finally — if you believe we need to be less dependent on homeowners to pay for all of the above — it is clear that we should vote yes for the meals tax. It's literally a pennies-on-the-dollar solution.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness Supports Meals Tax

After careful consideration, the Fairfax – Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness has decided to fully support the proposed 4 percent Fairfax County Meals Tax.

Seventy percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to our Fairfax County Schools. Our schools have an integral role in

identifying and assisting our homeless and at risk youth as part of our homeless service system. Providing additional funding for the schools only makes sense.

Thirty percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to the county's general fund to be used for priorities as identified by the

Board of Supervisors. One of these priorities is preventing and ending homelessness. In 2008 the Board of Supervisors adopted the Implementation Plan to Prevent Homelessness. At the very beginning of that Plan, the county stated: "By 2018, every person in our community will access and maintain decent, safe,

affordable housing."

We fully expect a portion of the funds raised by the meals tax will be used for this important priority.

Michael L. O'Reilly

Chairman, Board of the Fairfax Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness

COMMENTARY

Fall Comes to Reston—The Good, Bad and Ugly

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

I love the fall! If it were up to me, we would have fall weather for eleven months of the year. This fall, however, is having real ups and downs.

The Reston Farmers Market (RFM) at Lake Anne is always beautiful in the fall. Gourds, pumpkins, apples, deep greens like broccoli and kale and bright colored peppers, exotic Asian herbs, red and gold beets fill our stands. This October it dawned on me that it is even greater than ever. The varieties of vegetables and fruits at the Market this late in the year are several times what farmers were bringing to the market in 1998. Back in those early days, the produce selection dropped sharply in September and pickins were quite scarce by October.

On Oct. 8, 2016, one vendor alone, The Farm at Sunnyside, a certified organic grower from the Shenandoah, had exactly fifty different varieties for sale in their stand. Fifty as in 5-0! Other produce vendors were not very far behind. This explosion of selection plus availability earlier as well as



and, yes, climate change in Virginia, W. Va., and Maryland. Good news! So good that next year, you may see the Fairfax County-sponsored Reston Farmers Market season begin the first week in May and last until mid-December!

Some bad news. Have you noticed that while our temperatures have turned to fall-like, Reston's trees have very little of our typical fall colors? Most are more greenish turning brown, even though the leaves are starting to fall. A few sugar maples and dogwoods are showing splotches of reddish color, but otherwise the usual oranges, yellows and reds are largely absent. Arborists tell me that the long hot, dry spells we experienced in July-August seriously hurt our trees. If you look closely, you'll see some that are dying, in fact. This is also the case

later in the year are the result of improved seeds, growing methods (such as widespread use of hoop houses),

in many other eastern and northeastern states.

We are heading for Harpers Ferry, W. Va. this weekend in hopes of seeing more of the beautiful trees which we are missing in Reston.

The truly ugly dimension of fall in Reston and across the U.S. of A. is the American political process at its worst. The campaign has been underway forever. The primaries had interesting dimensions and useful public policy debates, particularly on the Democratic side where two capable politicians fought hard, but ultimately agreed on a set of policies that fit fairly neatly into what I'd call the center-left of the political spectrum.

Republicans started with nearly 20 candidates, a group so large they couldn't fit on one debate stage. What began as a potentially useful debate between a couple center-right and the majority far right voices morphed into a race for the way out right among all but one—Donald Trump. This is the person the media made the center of their universe, monopolizing print headlines daily and starting every TV news program, and interrupting others, with news of

his every utterance—coherent or not. Heading into the home stretch, Trump has insulted and abused woman, attacked and belittled every minority group, and failed to string together any coherent policy vision and has a faithful following of the hurt, angry, bigoted or lost totaling maybe 40 percent of Americans in his column!

So, Wednesday evening, with the Nats knocked out of the baseball playoffs, we are left to watch the mercifully final debate between the two major party presidential candidates at the Kalypso in Lake Anne, the Old Brogue or perhaps a pub in Reston Town Center (free parking!) with alcohol and friends to ease our national pain.

My Election Picks

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

Voters in the 36th legislative district which I represent will receive my annual voting guide in their mailboxes this week. I hope you will find it useful. You can also view the guide online at www.kenplum.com.



Of course individuals make their own choices in voting, but many people ask me for my advice. That is why I started sending out a guide many years ago. In addition to sharing my election picks, the guide provides voters with advanced notice of what is on the ballot in addition to high-profile races. For example, in addition to voting for the next president this year, voters in my district will elect their member of the House of Representatives, and they may vote on a referendum on a tax, two state constitutional amendments, and a bond referendum.

I enthusiastically recommend a vote for the electors for Hillary Clinton for president and Tim Kaine for vice-president. My endorsement of Hillary Clinton is not because of her political party, her being a woman or her being "the lesser of two evils" as some people are saying. I support her because she is the best qualified and most experienced person with the clearest agenda of any person I have ever supported in my lifetime and that goes back to John Kennedy. Tim Kaine whom I know personally is one of the most honest and decent persons I know in public life. He can do a lot to restore confidence in public service


that has taken a negative hit during this election cycle.

My legislative district is in two congressional districts: the 11th where Congressman Gerry Connolly deserves re-election and the 10th where LuAnn Bennett should be elected to replace an incumbent who has been part of the do-nothing congressional majority.

Two state constitutional amendments are on the ballot. The first that is termed "right to work" should be defeated as I explained in my column last week. Its provisions are already the law in Virginia and including it in the constitution would interfere with employers who seek a collaborative relationship with their employees. The second of the two amendments would allow local governments to grant property relief to spouses of fire, police and emergency services workers who die in the line of duty. I believe this should be approved.


The local meals tax referendum should be approved. We have witnessed in recent years the difficulties the Board of Supervisors and the School Board are having in balancing the budget because of a lack of revenue. The parents, grandparents and others I talk to in my district insist on the best possible schools for our children. Seventy percent of the revenues raised by the tax would go to the schools. I also support the bond referenda on the ballot by Fairfax County.

My recommendations are given to you respectfully to provide some more information before you vote on November 8. Not voting is never a good choice. Still need more information, go to vote.virginia.gov.



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—John Wooden



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Discussing the Election with Children

Local educators offer suggestions for navigating a complicated political climate.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While Colleen K. Vesely has watched televised debates and political events with her children throughout this election season, an event during which the American Civil Rights movement was discussed stands out. It was a concept her 3-year-old daughter didn't grasp, of course. But Vesely used the moment as opportunity to start guiding her children through this year's election season.

"I asked her to think about what she might do if someone at school was being mean to one of her friends, to which, she promptly replied, 'I'd tell them to stop being mean and that I don't like it,'" said Vesely, an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science at George Mason University. "Elections offer opportunities to consider the importance of service and standing up for democratic principles. ... However, the tone of this general election season is different."

Still, Vesely and other educators say that while election cycles typically offer families a multitude of opportunities for conversations about civics and discussions of democracy, navigating the current political climate requires added dexterity.

Use the election season to facilitate conversations in a way that is relatable to children based on their age and experiences, advises Vesely. "By ... discussing the different issues ... parents with school-age and older children can use the election season as an opportunity to expand their children's thinking in relation to current social issues and history," she said. "Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills with real-life issues by helping them critique candidates' opinions" as well as "understand different points of view on a variety of issues and develop their persuasive arguments." This is an exercise Vesely has used with her own children.

"During primary season, my 6-year-old and I watched a number of the candidates' speeches," she said. "We talked about the issues and each person as a human being. ... I offered reasons as to why I admired (some of) the candidates."

Focusing on citizenship and character is a strategy Vesely advises parents to use with children who are preschool-age and younger: "Parents might discuss what it means to be a good citizen in their home," she said. "For example, helping put away



PHOTO COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT

The election season offers students such as those at BASIS Independent School in McLean an opportunity to learn about the political process.

their toys when they are done playing, being nice to their classmates, helping their friends and teacher."

Similarly, local schools are developing creative ways to fit the Nov. 8 election into their lesson plans. For example, "since students are only in middle school for one presidential election, Norwood School takes advantage of this opportunity to help students begin to understand how to go about comparing candidates' positions on basic issues, and also to help them understand how the presidential election process works," said Michele Claeys, associate head of school and head of middle school, Norwood School in Potomac, Md.

To help students learn to understand issues and evaluate and compare candidates, teachers work together to create age-appropriate mini-lessons about candidates' positions on a small number of issues. "Students will explore and discuss — not debate — the issues, and learn how to find additional information on their own if they are interested," said Claeys.

On Election Day, middle school students will participate in a mock election designed to help them understand how the electoral process works. They will be divided into groups of different sizes with different numbers of electoral votes, representing each of the 50 states. "After both the real and mock elections, teachers will use the results to illustrate how the process works," said Claeys. "Throughout these lessons, our emphasis will be on respectful dialogue and consideration of multiple perspectives and experiences."

Educators at BASIS Independent School in McLean are teaching students about the political process by linking it to the selection of the school's mascot. By allowing students to choose a symbol to represent the school, teachers hope to initiate a broad conversation about awareness, empathy and other values.

"Especially for our younger students, conversations about how a mascot represents the qualities and values of our school serves as a good metaphor for the more serious representation in political contexts," said Sean Aiken, head of school. "Some students prefer traditional mascots to give our school a sense of familiarity and camaraderie. Some want less common mascots to set us apart from other schools and celebrate our individuality."

The lesson will involve the entire student body. "We ask our older students to generate ideas that take even our youngest 3-year-olds into account so we can unite as a whole school and not just play to specific 'special interests,'" said Aiken.

"The exercise serves as an impetus for posing thought-provoking questions to the students," says Aiken. "Should we identify ourselves as humorous, serious, fierce?" he asks. "What will happen if the greater numbers of students in the middle school prefer a mascot that the much smaller number of sophomores do not prefer? Should we use some sort of delegate system or stick with popular vote? How will we feel if our top choice for mascot ultimately is not selected, and what is the appropriate response to that feeling? Does our choice of mascot represent not just our current community but those who will join us in the future?"

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Eight students from Fairfax County Public Schools — all attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) — have been named semifinalists in the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search. The students, with their project names, are:

- ♦ Jake Cui, A Machine Learning Approach to Identifying Ordered Binding Regions on Order-disorder Protein Interfaces.
- ♦ Tarun Kamath, Marked Decreases in Pediatric and Young Adult Solid Organ Cancer Mortality in the United States Since 1940: Analysis and Hypotheses.
- ♦ Ava Lakmazaheri, Brain-actuated Robotics: A

"Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills"

— Colleen K. Vesely, Ph.D.,
George Mason University.

The activities, says Aiken, open the door for conversations about fairness and frustration in ways that are meaningful and age appropriate, and that can be put into the context of the current election season. "While our situation as a brand-new school is somewhat unique, the idea of mascot representation weaves through our whole society and could certainly be used to frame a conversation between students and their families about tone, identity and cooperation," he said.

Parents should also be aware of the ways the election is affecting their own emotional states and thus their families. "As I watch the presidential debates and continue to read the media coverage of the election, I find myself in an agitated and anxious emotional state," said Vesely. "This heightened emotional state with feelings of stress and agitation can spill over into family relationships, leaving us less present and sensitive in our interactions with our children and partners."

Choose the information children are exposed to thoughtfully and be prepared for questions, say experts. "The 2016 general election season [has been] described by some as dark and more negative than any of the recent past elections," Vesely said. "We want to encourage our children's participation in the political process, but ... it can sometimes be ugly and hurtful."

Shielding children, says Vesely, doesn't mean ignoring negativity entirely, however. "Parents should be prepared to talk through what children might hear from other children on the playground or at school," she said. "Parents ought to pay attention to ... their children's emotional states ... especially after viewing or discussing election-related media. As parents, we can look for teachable moments in which we might express notions of treating others how [we] want to be treated."

Logic-based Approach for Multimodal Programming and Operation of Assistive Humanoid Robots.

♦ Austin Mills, Demonstrating the Development of Heavy Metal Resistance in Non-tolerant Multi-generational Brassica rapa.

♦ Kunal Shroff, The Relationship Between Lethality and Genomic Instability in Euploid and Aneuploid Yeast Cells Expressing Pathological Huntingtin.

♦ Matthew Sun, Hyperacute Temporal Resolution with a Neural Population for Biologically Plausible Firing Rate Change Detection.

♦ Jason Wei, Improving Lateral Flow Immunoassay Sensitivity by a Palladium-catalyzed Dye Reaction.

Advice from the Pros

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Local private school admissions directors share wisdom they'd offer to their own children.

From interviews to essays to standardized tests to open houses, the season for submitting independent school applications is underway. For families vying for a spot at the area's most elite schools, the process can be fraught with anxiety, stress and confusion as parents and students wade through the myriad academic options in the Washington, D.C., region.

Admissions decision-makers at five local private schools share advice that they might offer their own children, underscoring the importance of finding the best fit rather than trying to fit into a top school if the environment might not match a student's personality.

Matti Donkor, interim director of enrollment management at The Madeira School in McLean:

"Enter the process very open-minded. I don't believe in saying, 'This is the one school for me.' I believe in knowing the core things that are important to you like the school's community, culture and traditions, but also in understanding that you might find those characteristics in a variety of schools. I think students and families should

be engaged in the [application] process. I think we do the school visit and that is the only interaction you have with the school. Find out what else is happening on campus, connect with other students and alumni. Really take the time to understand the culture of the school and whether it appeals to you."

"The application process is an opportunity to teach their children the art of dispassionate decision."

— **Richard S. Moss, director of admission, The Heights School**

Lisa Knight, director of admission, Flint Hill School, Oakton:

"Take time to learn about the school community. Shadow for day, attend several [school] community events, go and experience the community for yourself. Notice how you feel when you are on campus. Do you feel welcomed? Are current students and teachers greeting you in the hallways and classrooms? Do they notice you? Can you see yourself growing academically, in-

tellectually and socially there? Are you comfortable with the teaching style and methods? Do you value what the school values?"

Richard S. Moss, director of admission, The Heights School, Potomac, Md.:

"Teach your child how to make a pros and cons list. Help him or her thoughtfully consider the options. Ultimately, your child needs to know that he is a valued advisor to the ultimate decision makers: the parents. It's an opportunity for parents to nurture trust. It is a mistake to lead your child to believe that one school is the be all and end all to life's problems. That's a high bar, and, more importantly, you don't want to crush a child's spirit if he doesn't get in."

Michael Cresson, director of admissions, Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington:

"I recommend all students looking at various schools make sure that they are comfortable. Definitely shadow and visit during open houses to get a true sense of the community and school. I tell students to make sure they are comfortable and happy with their choice because they only get to go to high school once."

Sean Aiken, head of school, BASIS Independent, McLean:

"I would advise students not to get too caught up in their resumes and records and instead work to discuss passions and projects that excite and interest them. How will the school help you explore your ideas in greater depth? In what areas do you want to improve? I'm always impressed with students who are hungry to know more about the world."

Julie C. Lewis, director of admission and financial aid, Alexandria County Day School, Alexandria:

"I recommend that families 'Take the time to visit a wide-range of schools, not just the ones your friends' kids attend, to really get a feel for what appeals to you as a family and will work best for your individual child. The Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington's website (AISGW.org) is a fantastic place to start your research and may lead you to a school you were not previously familiar with. Once you've created your list of schools, visit each of them and don't be afraid to ask as many questions as needed to really get a sense of the academic program and school community."



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Cast of "Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity"

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'Voices of Muslim Identity' Take CenterStage

Reston Community Center presents "Beyond Sacred."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Reston's CenterStage is bringing a singular theater work called "Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity" to local audiences. The production will explore the diversity of experiences in America. "It is intended to make space for people's voices who are rarely heard in our civic dialogues on local and national levels," said Ping Chong, founder, Ping Chong + Company.

"Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity" intends to build bridges of understanding between people who might imagine themselves to be very different from one another, but who, in the experience of this production, realize how much we all fundamentally share," added Chong.

Ping Chong has been honored with the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the United States government by President Obama. Ping Chong + Company began in 1992 with productions concerned with "intolerance and xenophobia" in America.

Productions were by local communities with local participants using their own oral history that explored the intersections of race, culture, history, art, media and technology," said Chong. A final script was developed based on the oral interviews that was then shared with an audience under the general title "Undesirable Elements."

Ping Chong + Company has evolved to take intense looks at other aspects of inclusion or exclusion. Projects have explored topics such as disability, experiences of survivors of sexual violence, as well as peace and reconciliation work.

Sara Zatz, Associate Director, Ping Chong + Company said that new "Beyond Sacred" performance is "about creating increased understanding of human diversity and commonality—so it's important that we select a group that brings a wide range of experiences, backgrounds, and stories to share." In the case of "Voices of Muslim Identity" the project is about those who came of age after 9/11 which "deeply



Where and When

Reston Community Center, CenterStage presents "Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity" at 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Mill Center, Reston. Performance on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15, Non-Reston Ticket: \$20. Call 703- 476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com

impacted their experiences of growing up Muslim in the United States.

"Although the show is subtitled 'Voices of Muslim identity,' it is just as much about challenges faced by young people of color across the United States," added Zatz.

Asked about the impact that "Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity" performances have had on viewers Zatz said that "audiences have been overwhelmingly positive, and deeply grateful to have the opportunities to hear first-hand stories. This is true for both Muslim audience members who feel they are seeing themselves represented, but also non-Muslim audience members who are finding paths of connection to the experiences shared."

World premiere screening of the new documentary **THE UNIVERSITY**, a film about Singularity University; an institution tucked away on a hidden NASA base in Silicon Valley will be held on Friday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Bow Tie Reston Town Center 11 & BTX Theater, 11940 Market St. Tickets \$12 - \$15. A panel of futurists will be on hand for a post-screening discussion. Washington West Film Festival runs Oct. 19-25. More information at <https://www.filmfest.com/>



CALENDAR

Send announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Exercise for Parkinson's Every Monday, 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free.parkinsonfoundation.org. ckacenga@sportandhealth.com 703-621-4148.

Beginning / Intermediate Oil Painting - Vicki Blum Thursdays 7 - 10 p.m. Sept. 15 - Nov. 10, 2016. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Learn contemporary and classical methods of painting. Recommended for artists who want to improve the realistic appearance of their work. www.artspaceherndon.com 703-956-9560

Shih Chieh Huang. Synthetic Transformations Sept. 16 - Nov. 16. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center. Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St #103, Reston. Dynamic gallery experience by Shih Chieh Huang, sponsored by Leidos and the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Huang will present an installation featuring elements created from a variety of media including LED lights and materials such as plastic bags and Tupperware. Cost: Free. info@resonarts.org 703-471-9242.

Meadow Farms Fall Festival **Great Falls** Oct. 3 - Oct. 31 Monday through Friday 8 - 7 p.m. Saturday 8 - 6 p.m. Sunday 9 - 6 p.m. 10618 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. There will be pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, mums, pansies, star bales, and everything else you need for the fall look. A huge selection of pumpkins. There will also be moon bounces, giant scarecrows, haunted buses and pipes for the kids to go through, weekend concessions and much more. Let your kids have a blast while you pick out your pumpkins and all your fall needs. www.meadowfarms.com

Manganelli Solos at PenFed Realty October and November 2016 at the office of PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Dr., Reston. The exhibit is free and the office is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. leagueofrestonartists.org

LRA displays "Courage" at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery Oct. 3 - Oct. 31. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Lake Anne

Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Experience the artists' courage to break through fears, embrace empathy, and reject conflict through color and brushstroke. Paintings and mixed media work. Presented by the League of Reston Artists.

www.leagueofrestonartists.org

8th Annual Expressions

Portrait Exhibit October 5 - October 28 ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. An exhibit featuring finalists in the 8th Annual Expressions Portrait Competition. Competition juror and renowned artist Jordan Xu made the selections for the finalists. Local artist and juror Tricia Cherrington-Ratliff will announce winners of the competition during the Awards Reception on Saturday, October 15th 7 - 9 p.m. 703-956-9560. www.artspaceherndon.com

Gypsy Takes The Stage at Reston Community Players

The "Mother of all Musicals" opens RCP 50th Anniversary Season. October 21 through November 12. Performance Dates Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29, 30*, Nov. 4, 5, 6*, 11, 12 2016. Shows start at 8 p.m. Please note: Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 are matinees with a 2 p.m. curtain. It's known as one of the most classic American musicals of all time. Broadway productions have starred legends ranging from Ethel Merman, Bernadette Peters, and Patti LuPone. While, the motion picture versions were led by Merman and Bette Midler. Now, Gypsy takes the stage at Reston Community Players. Restonplayers.org

Team Trivia at Kalypso's.

Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Bring your friend and join the challenge. 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

Open Mic Night at Kalypso's.

Mondays, 7-10 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Musicians and singers come out and perform. 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

Karaoke at Kalypso's.

Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Come to Kalypso's and sing your hearts out! 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

Mr. Knick Knack. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays through October. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Unique, heart-centered music for kids and their grown-ups. Free. restontowncenter.com. 703-579-6720

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

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 <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

Reston Photographic Society Meetings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston on the third Monday of each month through Nov. 31. The meeting date is changed if the third Monday falls on a holiday. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to share info and enjoy guest speakers, workshops and group critiques. Nonmembers welcome. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

Herndon Regional Ensemble Practice. Every Tuesday 7-9 p.m. through May. Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St., Herndon. For advanced high school students, college students, and adults who play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. 703-904-4800 HerndonRegionalWindEnsemble@gmail.com Cost: Free

Through the Eye of the Needle Quilt Show Oct. 31 - Nov. 28. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Plaza, 2609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. The Cotting Quilters, an active Reston group who focuses on traditional and modern designs, presents its first quilt show. The exhibition, with no hard and fast rules, features full sized quilts, art quilts, wall hanging, table runners and other fabric art. A reception will take place on Sunday November 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Email ablownen@gmail.com for more information.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19

Navigating Medicare 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Confused about Medicare coverage? Supplemental insurance? How to deal with the costs of a catastrophic illness? Let our Medicare expert answer your questions! Adults 64 up. Free. Register online at fairfaxcounty.gov/library

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19-25

Washington West Film Festival. Reston Town Center 11900 Market Street Reston, Virginia, 20190. A cinematic experience presenting independent films. Three in-competition categories: dramatic features, documentary features, and short films. Schedules and tickets: www.filmfest.com

THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Color Me Happy 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Relax, unwind, and turn loose your inner artist in an adult coloring session. Choose from our collection of intricate designs and bring them to life with color. Coloring pages, pens and pencils provided, or bring your own. Adults. fairfaxcounty.gov/library

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

World premiere screening of the new documentary THE UNIVERSITY, a film about Singularity University; an institution tucked away on a hidden NASA base in Silicon Valley. Each summer 80 young geniuses from around the world attend and take on the mission of starting a company that will positively impact a billion people in 10 years. 7:30 p.m. at Bow Tie Reston Town Center 11 & BTX Theater, 11940 Market St. Tickets \$12 - \$15. A panel of futurists will be on hand for a post-screening discussion moderated by Canvas CEO James Quigley. Washington West Film Festival runs Oct. 19-25. More information at <https://www.filmfest.com/>

Teen and Adult art class: Color explorations. 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. Artspace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Realization of form - starting with drawing and working to paint, representing three dimensional forms using shading, cast shadow, atmospheric perspective. Cost: \$60. Please reserve your place in class by emailing Denise Dittmar, denise.dittmar@gmail.com. More information at 214-924-8755. www.artspaceherndon.com

Sideline at Holy Cross Lutheran Church 8 p.m. Doors open 7 p.m. 1090 Sterling Road Herndon. Sideline formed a year or two ago as a project band with bluegrass pickers from top bands getting together to blend their talents and enjoy eachothers company. Admission: \$15, children 12 and younger free.

SUNDAY/ OCT. 23

Art House Cafe Music Event 3 - 5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon 750 Center Street, Herndon. Three local composers bring their new pieces to the public for their debut performance. Their pieces touch on multiple subjects and span several genres. Come enjoy a night of fresh instrumental music. All ages welcome. Not recommended for small children. www.artspaceherndon.com

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Two Things I Worry About

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



For the sake of this column, anyway: should I be hospitalized for more than a passing fancy, how will I be able to maintain my non-Western (50-plus pills, Braggs Apple Cider vinegar, wheat grass, Essential Oil, etc.) alternatives/daily regimen away from home? And secondly, should I be so hospitalized that it makes returning to work WHERE I CO-PAY MY HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS impractical and quite unimaginable — under the presumptive-circumstances-possibly-to-be, said insurance is unlikely to continue/be co-paid for too long, even though I work for an incredibly kind and understanding company, how do I transition to non-work/working-dependent health insurance?

I suppose "Obamacare" is likely the answer but could I afford (since I'd no longer be making my previous income) the premiums which would be higher than my present co-paid premium? If the answer is indeed "Obamacare," is its "openness" seasonal? At certain times? Requiring special circumstances? What if I am accepted but have to change insurers after nearly eight extremely successful (which I define as yours truly still being alive) years and begin anew with who knows what, where and how about me, myself and I? If part of surviving cancer is managing stress, I don't see how that management — so to speak, continues after such a drastic change in my health care/lifestyle?

As for my pills/ "Rebecca routine," what will give (to re-work an old expression) when hospitalized? Based on my previous one-week stay in August 2013, nothing will be given — or asked about. I'm not sure if it wasn't asked about or integrated into my treatment as a matter of hospital policy or simply a reflection of poor planning/non-advocacy on our part? Either way, I stopped taking my pills/doing my things, things that quite frankly have likely contributed to my amazing good fortune to still be alive so many more years longer than my original "13-month to two-year" prognosis suggested I'd be. And how do you think the added stress of not maintaining another routine that's been an integral part of my life going on for nearly eight years post diagnosis would affect my stay/stress should I be forced to extend my time at the hospital?

Perhaps I sound naive in worrying about pills and policies, especially considering that at the moment (although I am currently waiting for CT Scan and brain MRI results from two days ago and have chemotherapy scheduled in two hours), neither scenario is imminent. But that's exactly the concern. If I wait until it's imminent, it might be "too late," as Tommy Heinsohn, aka "Tommy Gun" during his playing days, used to exclaim after made baskets by the Boston Celtics, while doing television broadcasts for them back in the day, starting in the mid-1960s. And the other scenario: one is not exactly forewarned when 'imminent' is; it sort of happens, right? All one can do I think, is anticipate and possibly/dare I say inevitably, investigate and plan accordingly — without being too morbid or morose in the process. Because once I lose my sunny disposition and positive attitude/sense of humor, it's likely that all bets: win, place or show — and presumptions, are off. "Not a sermon, just a thought," to invoke/quote Lon Solomon from McLean Bible Church as heard on local radio here in Washington, D.C.

Because who knows what matters, really? I certainly don't. I only know is what I don't know. And what I don't know is, will any of the likely future changes I've discussed — to quote Curly Howard from the Three Stooges' episode "Some More of Samoa": "kill or cure."

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

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21 Announcements

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Gordon Parks, Back to Fort Scott is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: Seattle, St. Louis, Houston, 1950; Gordon Parks (American, 1912-2006), greatest of his kind. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



JOHN DAVID FARRELL SR MD (Age 79)

Herndon - **Stephen Jeremy Crum** died on Sunday, October 16, 2016, after being stricken at home. He was the son of The Rev. John M., Jr. and Ernestine Benson Crum.

He was born in Red Bank, New Jersey on March 5, 1958, when his father was Rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg, New Jersey.

He relocated with his family in to Cobleskill in 1967 when Fr. Crum became the Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. He attended Cobleskill Central School and graduated in 1976. He attended SUNY Cobleskill where he played on the Tennis Team, Swim Team, Diving and Water Polo. He was awarded an athletic scholarship to Coastal Carolina University where he played tennis and graduated with a BS in Marine Biology in 1980.

He married Stephanie Miller, formerly of Albany, on October 31, 1992 and they lived in Herndon, VA where he was employed as an Assistant Program Manager for Navy contracts at Telos International. He was active in the Episcopal Churches in Great Falls, VA and Cobleskill, NY.

He is survived by his wife: Stephanie, his son: Army Private First Class Samuel Morgan Crum of Fort Campbell, Kentucky and daughter: Sarah Katherine Crum of Herndon. He is also survived by his mother: Ernestine Crum of Wamerville; his brother: James F. Crum (Joanne) of Cobleskill; a niece: Darcy Crum Meadows (Ryan) and grandniece, Joanna Lia Meadows, of Baltimore, MD; his mother-in-law: Bernice Fields Miller (late Melvin) of Herndon; and brother-in-law: Douglas Miller (Helen) of Baltimore. His father, The Rev. John M. Crum, Jr., predeceased him in 1996.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 11 AM at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, St. Christopher's Place, Cobleskill, NY. A visitation period will be held at the church prior to the mass, from 10 AM to 11 AM. Burial will follow at Cobleskill Rural Cemetery. The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk will be the celebrant, assisted by The Rev. Dr. Ellen Neufeld, FHC.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, PO Box 386, Cobleskill, NY 12043.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Mereness-Putnam Funeral Home, 171 Elm St., Cobleskill and Palmer & Shaylor Funeral Home of Middleburgh.

Further information and the provision for online condolences may be found at www.merenessputnamfuneralhome.com

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PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

From left — Mike Hogarty, owner of Hotrods 2 Hybrids joined with Callye Keen from Red Blue Collective to create Alpha, a new fidget toy. Photo taken at the Nova Labs site in Reston.

Reston Nova Labs Inspires Entrepreneurs

Reston maker space encourages new product.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Mike Hogarty, owner of Hotrods 2 Hybrids joined with Callye Keen from Red Blue Collective to create Alpha, a new fidget toy. “I love high end CNC craftsmanship and the maker community inspires me,” said Hogarty. Hogarty and Keen knew each other from earlier projects and connections with Nova Labs. Hogarty has designed custom products for performance vehicles including Ferrari and Lamborghini.

NOVA LABS is a membership-driven all-volunteer makerspace based in Reston, founded in 2011 with the purpose of empowering everyone to “rediscover the joy of making things.” The facility at 1916 Isaac Newton Sq West houses classrooms, workspace, incubator offices and a shop that includes common tools and advanced fabrication equipment. Members enjoy 24-7 access and help co-manage the space by teaching classes, maintaining equipment, and promoting making in the community.

Callye Keen’s start-up, Red Blue Collective, has helped provide solutions as entrepreneurs develop hardware products from concept to market. Hogarty worked with Keen to test it out in the collaborative environment at Nova Labs, along with access to prototyping tools and production equipment.

“After seeing spinning fidget toys, we wanted one. List after list closed. We realized how hard these things were to buy. Many were no longer available. We decided to make one and share it with the world,”

said Keen. With a shared love of making things, they created Alpha, a CNC machined functional sculpture. Callye and Mike decided to demonstrate how to go from an idea to launching a Kickstarter campaign, and in only 20 days.

ALPHA provides focus through fidgeting with aesthetics worthy of a CEO’s desk. Focus could be prolonged attention on a singular task, reduction in stress, or a calming of anxiety. “Design is an exploration... we tested bearings, materials, and profiles to refine the design,” said Hogarty. Mike Hoyer of Prototype Designs, a fellow Nova Labs member was instrumental in prototyping Alpha.

The Alpha Complete package is multi-functional allowing for passive fidgeting or active playing. The package contains a pocket top, acting as a gyroscopic battle top, and serving as hand spinning fidget. Alpha fits comfortably in the hand. A simple flick spins the toy between the fingers. Alpha replaces pen clicking and foot tapping with a silent outlet for fidgeting. The Kickstarter campaign was funded within 24 hours and by the second day it was overfunded by 200 percent. Revolve Makers is offering various reward levels with various metals and accessories. Approximately \$28,847 was pledged of a \$5,000 goal.

CNC machined bronze with options of stainless steel and titanium give the product a feel of quality that goes beyond expectation. Alpha is available for a limited time on Kickstarter. Proceeds from the campaign will help Mike Hogarty and Callye Keen build the Red Blue Collective to help entrepreneurs bring their products to market. A webpage which further describe their products is viewable at www.revolve makers.com. In addition to being a meeting place for innovators and makers, Nova Labs hosts the annual NoVA Mini Maker Faire which is held in Reston. The date for the next event is to be March 19, 2017.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Real estate agent and co-owner of the show house on Old Brookville Court, Lynn Millar was the one homeowner who was on hand to greet her “guests” for the tour. From left — Windi Oehms and Doug Wood of Centerville, and Claudia Thompson-Deahl admire Lynn’s recently renovated shaker-style kitchen. Thompson-Deahl, who is the Senior Environmental Resource Manager for Reston, and co-author of the book “The Nature of Reston” admitted that this was her first time to take the tour, but after this experience, it won’t be her last.

Home Tour

FROM PAGE 3

and an enviable functionality.

into your environment. Without benefit of an architect or a designer, they transformed their home, one major step at a time. They started in 2005 by taking the basement down to its concrete foundations, even removing interior walls, to rework the entire space. Digging down to add four full-size windows to the in-ground lower level, they now have a brighter and more functional space with a media area, wet bar, fifth bedroom, full bath, a laundry room, and a den. Their 2015 kitchen renovation, again calling for the removal of walls and turning the back wall into windows with a view of their tranquil backyard, was featured on the website HOUZZ, as well as Luxury Home and Design magazine. It also elicited quite a few sighs and longing looks from many of the tour visitors.

More renovations and additions, both inside and out, were on display at the Richards home off of North Village Rd., the Millar home off of Great Owl Drive, and the Kisner/Lojpersberger condo in the Oak Park complex, where how to downsize and still maintain the space for showcasing your art and collectibles and entertaining your friends and family were well demonstrated. The condo owners, Steve and John, just renovated the kitchen. It may not be the biggest, but it has all of the modern conveniences

ONE OF THE MOST CROWDED STOPS on the tour was the new BLVD apartments at Metro Station, as the curious from Reston and beyond decided to see what the “new stuff” was all about. The ultra-sleek common areas may not be everyone’s cup of tea, but there was agreement that those multiple spaces provided lots of places to gather or hold private parties and events, hang out and people watch, shape up in the state-of-the-art fitness center or the yoga studio, just chill or maybe barbeque in one of the several outdoor areas, or just spend time taking in the incredible 360 degree views from the 21st floor. After checking out the penthouse panorama, visitors were then invited to view three different models, from a studio with a bedroom alcove, to a two-bedroom apartment with gourmet kitchen.

The \$30 ticket price for the tour benefits the Reston Historic Trust, which also received 10 percent of tour day purchases made at the Wine Cabinet at North Point Village. In keeping with the “Embracing Change” theme, Chair Bonnie Haukness is turning over the reigns to new Tour Chairs after 10 years on the job. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, sponsors, and the homeowners, with the success of the 2016 event, Haukness is certainly ending her tenure on a good note.