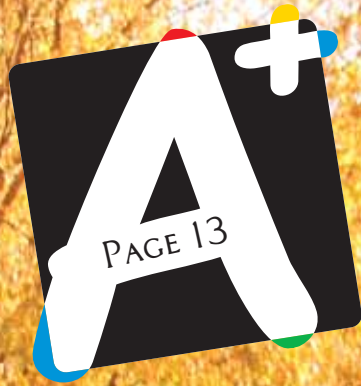


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# Board Members Divided Over Budget; Pools on Chopping Block

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**R**eston Association's 2017 proposed budget was hotly debated during a public hearing that left both residents and board directors in disagreement.

The cost for residents' membership to the RA was a particular point of contention during last week's hearing.

Membership to the RA is required for all residential property owners in Reston, and they are billed annually for the assessment. The 2016 annual assessment was \$657. The latest draft of the proposed 2017 budget resulted in an assessment of \$692.

Prior to the hearing, the original proposed 2017 assessment was \$698, but the board pushed back and asked the RA's staff to reduce the rate by \$7. RA's CEO Cate Fulkerson found this savings by proposing to cut Reston's pool budget by \$138,000.

"My recommendation, as has been my staff's recommendation for the past several years— if not before my time— to take a hard look at aquatics," said Fulkerson. "If the organization has any place to save, it is there. We have too many aquatic facilities. It costs anywhere from \$50,000 to \$120,000 per facility per month, depending on where you are in the community."

Danielle Larosa, the RA's treasurer, disagreed with the cut and asked the board to reconsider reverting back to the original proposed rate of \$698 in order to keep the aquatics budget as is.

"I don't think we have enough information to ... make those drastic dollar amounts of cuts," Larosa said. "\$138,000 is a drastic cut."

But Eve Thompson, the RA's secretary, countered and urged the board to "dig in" and make hard decisions now.

"It just kicks the can down the road," Thompson said. "It's very easy to avoid making unpopular decisions and it's harder to dig in."

Ray Wedell, RA director at-large, was concerned about cutting RA benefits.

"There's alternative things in this budget that can be sliced before we start closing down member pools," Wedell said. "When we close pools, I sense it's going to be an economic decision based on usage ... and I'd like to see us analyze in detail before we jump to conclusions."

RA's CEO Cate Fulkerson also asked the board to consider changing the operation hours for one of Reston's newest real estate investments: the Lake House— an investment that went over budget and is still yielding loss after its completion.

"I can tell you that, thus far, we've been open about four months and we've lost about \$28,000 in potential rental revenue because of the hours," said Fulkerson.

**THE CURRENT HOURS** of operation are operating at a loss, according to Fulkerson. And she wants the board to consider increasing the operating hours. She also wants to allow the space to be rented during holidays, like other facilities in the town.



**Ray Wedell (center), a Reston Association director at-large, spoke in opposition to the board's proposed budget, which he said he will not support.**



**Ronald Weber of 2004 Halyard Lane told the Reston Association Board that his income wasn't keeping up with the proposed assessment rate increase during the public hearing.**

These changes in the proposed RA budget would add an additional \$81,924 of revenue. "[The proposed schedule] would result in coming in the black at the end of the year as opposed to not," she said.

Several Reston residents showed up to the hearing to give feedback to the board, including the last-minute changes to the drafted budget that the directors were discussing.

"I have made a real effort to understand the RA budget," said Ed Abbott of 2218 Wakerobin Lane during the public hearing. "Budget information is simply not presented to the board in an organized and intelligible manner. It is so bad that even the board is obviously confused about the budgeting process."

"Before you approve any budget, much less an increase in fees, you must zero the budget," he continued. "That is the only way out of this mess."

He was not the only resident who was

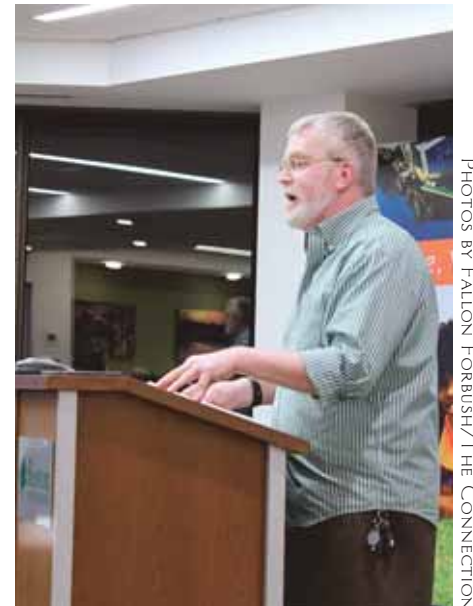
upset with the proposed budget.

"You are setting a path for RA that is simply not sustainable," James Dean of 11195 Square Sail Court said of the proposed assessment increase during the public hearing. "RA members cannot continue to pay these type of assessment increases."

"When I settled in Reston almost 40 years ago, the assessment rate was \$60," said Ronald Weber of 2004 Halyard Lane during the public hearing. "The present amount ... is also more than 10 times the gross amount I get from Social Security each month."

Wedell turned the table and gave dissenting public comment to members of his own board.

"The core issue that has been ignored for years and will likely be ignored again," said Wedell. "It is time to break the silence and force real discussion and a real vote on the relevant issues, and the issue in this case is the archaic and unfair way in which the



**James Dean of 11195 Square Sail Court speaks about his disapproval of the proposed budget during the public hearing.**

Reston Association collects assessments from its members."

He said that there has been a disparity in benefits members receive for their assessment dollars.

"I am a free-thinking person on a nine-member board that is supposed to represent the best interests of the people, and it is our responsibility to act," he said. "I highly recommend that this become a major issue for the next Reston board member elections, and the subject of a future referendum, and one not in the distant future."

The next election facing RA Board directors is next year, where RA members can vote from March 6-April 3, 2017.

As of now, the proposed budget will not earn Wedell's vote.

"The RA board needs to have the guts to move forward and risk pockets of resistance and unpopularity," he said. "Collecting the same annual fee from each member in Reston is simply wrong."

He would prefer an assessment rate on a sliding scale based on a member's property value. No one voiced support, but others from the community criticized the association's services for its members.

"You don't need to be buying real estate ... You don't need to be in the land-use business," Kathleen Driscoll of 2098 Cobblestone Lane said during the public hearing. "You're not a town council. This is not a city. This is a community and the things that define a community is service. How about a little service for the homeowners associations?"

The board reacted to the public comments.

"We really need to step back and look at our mission and see how our budget aligns with that mission," said Lucinda Shannon, RA board director representing Hunters Woods/Dogwood District. "Administrative expenses is 60 percent of our budget. Forty percent goes to services. I think that we should be spending a lot more on services

SEE BOARD, PAGE 5



# A Violation of the Comprehensive Plan

**Reston resident analyzes Saint John's Wood redevelopment proposal.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

A group of determined neighbors are holding steadfast in their opposition to the proposed redevelopment plans for the St. Johns Wood (SJW) apartment complex, located at 11555 Old Tiverton Circle, by owners of the Bozzuto Group, and they are adding some serious ammunition to their arsenal. On October 24, Restonian John Mooney sent a letter to a comprehensive list of interested, involved or influential parties, including the offices of Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Planning Commissioner Frank de la Fe, The Reston Asso-

ciation, The Reston Design Review Board, counsel for the Bozzuto Group, and a number of local residents who have joined forces as the group "Reclaim Reston."

**MOONEY** is a member of Reclaim Reston. He added his signature to those of more than 675 locals who signed Reston resident Susanne Andersson-Tosado's on-line petition opposing the project. But he wrote his letter, and its companion analysis "SJW's Non-Conformity with the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan Generally and the Reston Master Plan Specifically," as an individual citizen.

Since the redevelopment plan was first submitted, it has been met with vocal protests at meetings of the Reston Design Review Board, the Reston Planning and Zoning Commission, a special meeting of the Reston Association, and even the Governance Board of the Association. Dozens of concerned citizens have written letters in opposition. What makes Mooney's letter and analysis particularly powerful is its professional, measured tone, and reliance on an in-depth review of the county and local plans that gov-

ern development, comparing their restrictions and regulations to Bozzuto's plans for SJW. Mooney utilized his many years as Assistant County Manager and Director of Utilities and Environmental Policy Division for Arlington County as he performed the extensive analysis.

"The SJW proposal would create a massive urbanization right in the midst of the North Point residential neighborhoods in violation of the Reston Covenant, the Reston Master Plan, and the Fairfax County zoning ordinance," said Mooney. "The proposal would ...demolish the existing...3-floor garden apartments and replace them with two massive buildings and a bank of 44 townhomes," he added. "The apartment buildings...would more than double SJW's current 250 units and be twice as high. In the process, 49 percent of the existing tree canopy would be removed."

**RESTONIANS** have already gotten the Reston Association on their side, when the directors voted unanimously on Sept. 14 to recommend that the current version of the plan be denied by the



PHOTO BY KELLEY WESTENHOFF

## See You Next Year at Reston Farmers Market

**On Saturday, Nov. 12, the Reston Farmers Market closed its 19th season. Northern Virginia's top farmers market, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority, expects to return for its 20th year on May 6, 2017.**

**Farmer vendors say goodbye to Reston shoppers for 2016. Also pictured Co-Market Masters John and Fran Lovaas, seated fifth and sixth from the right.**

County. Next up is the Nov. 15 meeting of the Reston Design Review Board which had conceptually approved the original plan back in July. The submission of a revised plan triggered this new review by the Board. Reclaim Reston hopes that Restonians will take the time to inform themselves on the issues by reviewing documents like Mooney's analysis and the RA Association's letter to the County asking for a denial of the

proposal, both available on the Reston Association website at [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org). Mooney hopes that the public will "vote with their presence" at the meeting.

"This is an important test case for massive redevelopments in Reston's residential neighborhoods," he said. "Analysis and words are important in resisting them. But nothing demonstrates the concern of citizens like their attending public hearings."

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# Board Divided Over Budget

FROM PAGE 3

than administration.”

She finished her remarks by saying that the association is supposed to be for the homeowners and not, “whatever the staff thinks that they want to like to do and thinks is a good idea.”

Jeff Thomas, RA director at-large, reminded the board that its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan was developed over a two-month period last year and required, “substantial effort to establish.”

“We invested a lot of energy in going out to the community and we had meetings in each of the districts last year,” he said. “We asked the community, ‘Where are your priorities?’ ‘Where do you want us to be focusing our dollars?’

**THE BOARD** adopted the plan on March 26, 2015.

He said that by-and-large, the budget and where the association is spending its resources is consistent with the plan that was informed by the community.

“I feel confident that we’re spending the resources where the community has asked us to,” he said.

But he did admit that there were more opportunities where the board could be more efficient, and that, “they needed to do a better job at that.”

Still, Wedell stuck to his opinion that the



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

**Ray Wedell, a Reston Association director at-large, was concerned about cutting RA benefits.**

process for the board’s decision-making is flawed and framed by what the staff wants, as opposed to what residents want.

“We are in dire need of leadership,” he said.

A second public hearing for the RA budget is scheduled on Thursday, Nov. 17. The board will then finalize the assessment rate.

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# OPINION

# Holidays Are for Giving

Give thanks and share locally; tens of thousands of families in Fairfax County are in need.

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

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

More than 52,000 children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's 28 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools. (Nearly 7 percent of students in FCPS live below the poverty line, a harrowing \$24,000 for a family of four.)

All of these are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

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

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Where to Give Locally

❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org).

Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Sign up by Nov. 17 for Gifts for Kids, Alacia Earley at 571-323-9568 or [alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org).

### “Moving Beyond Homelessness”

**Housewarming Baskets:** Last year Cornerstones helped 52 families and 84 individuals leave the Embry Rucker Shelter and homelessness. A housewarming basket is a welcome gift for a family moving beyond homelessness as they settle into their new home. Baskets can be delivered to the Cornerstones administrative office during business hours.

Include any of these new items in a laundry basket or large box to help our neighbors on their path to stability: Inflatable air mattress with pump; twin size, and double size “bed in a bag;” pillows; laundry basket; hangers; bathroom towels; vacuum; broom/dust pan; pot/pan kitchen starter set; silverware, cooking utensils, and glasses/cups;

kitchen towels; dishes; cookbook; can opener; toilet paper; paper towels; cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, toilet brush and cleaner, disinfecting spray); tool kit; fire extinguisher; First Aid kit; standing floor lamps; light bulbs; gift cards (Grocery store, Target, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Home Depot, gas station, etc.) For more information, contact Nate King at 571-323-9569 or [Nate.King@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:Nate.King@cornerstonesva.org).

### Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet

distributed over 5,500 winter coats and jackets last winter, plus over 4,000 hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to individuals and families in need of winter gear. Bring coat donations to the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190 through Feb. 16, 2017, 24 hours a day.

The Closet is accepting donations of new and clean, gently used coats and jackets, as well as new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Deliver any time to the 24-hour drop box at the Community Room of the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190.

❖ **SHARE** of McLean operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families (630-plus people) this year. Each family will receive a grocery gift card in November along with a bag filled with pantry staples and traditional items. In December, our families will be welcomed to a festive party, served a light meal, and Santa will travel all the way from the North Pole to take photographs with the children. Each person will receive a “wish” gift and families will be given a grocery gift card, a bag filled with toiletries, and a jug of laundry detergent. Help us help our neighbors in need by fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Contact Chris Wilbur at [ShareWishes@gmail.com](mailto:ShareWishes@gmail.com) for more information. Visit [www.shareofmclean.org](http://www.shareofmclean.org) for more info about Share.

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 [herndonrestonfish.org](http://herndonrestonfish.org) Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and much more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.

❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, and needs volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. [holiday@linkagainsthunger.org](http://holiday@linkagainsthunger.org). 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org).

❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, [www.cho-va.com](http://www.cho-va.com)

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate online or via check payable to “NVFS” with “Operation Turkey” on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family

Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Gifting for Families was able to bring some extra holiday cheer to more than 2,000 children in Northern Virginia last year. Monetary contributions and online donations help the most at [www.nvfs.org](http://www.nvfs.org). [www.nvfs.org/holidayprograms](http://www.nvfs.org/holidayprograms). Or donate toys. New toys for children of all ages are needed to stock our Toy Closet. (If possible, shop for infants/toddlers or teens, as these age groups can be overlooked.) Drop off on Monday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 13939 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. Alternative House provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent. [www.thealternativehouse.org](http://www.thealternativehouse.org).

❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. [www.touchingheart.com](http://www.touchingheart.com), 703-901-7355.

❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or [volunteer@facetscares.org](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org). [www.facetscares.org](http://www.facetscares.org). 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Join Britepaths at Wine & Wonderment, Nov. 30, at 2941 Restaurant britepaths.org

❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

❖ **Lamb Center**, [www.thelambcenter.org](http://www.thelambcenter.org), day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.

❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. [info@foodforothers.org](mailto:info@foodforothers.org) Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. [www.foodforothers.org](http://www.foodforothers.org)

❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families during this holiday season. Consider making a basket or “adopting” Christmas wishes this year to help a neighbor. More information about LCAC's holiday program can be found at <http://lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/>. Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at <http://lortonaction.org> or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William

SEE GIVE LOCALLY. PAGE 16

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## NEWS



PHOTO BY MARK MOGLE

### South Lakes Freshman Narrates the Wreath Laying Ceremonies

Paul Migliara of Reston prepares to narrate the wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknowns as part of the National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery. Paul is a freshman at South Lakes High School and is a member of the JROTC.

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## Always protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor for your remodeling project!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Enforced by Federal law all states must have a transparent website that clearly shows all contractors licenses. If they've ever paid taxes in VA, they're in there. Easily validate your contractor by going to <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>

Contractors are validated through their Class License and Specialty Licenses. Class C contractors can only perform jobs of a monetary value up to \$10,000.00 and ONLY \$150,000 yr. Class B contractors up to \$120,000.00, and no more than \$750,000 per yr. Class A there is no monetary limit.

For Bathroom or Kitchen remodels a number of different Specialty Licenses are required. BLD License covers framing, drywall, tile work. PLB covers all plumbing such as the replacement of shower and kitchen faucets. ELE covers electrical work such as the replacement of lighting. HVA covers the replacement of ventilation fans and range hoods.

### How do I submit a complaint about my Unlicensed Contractor?

Due to code limitations in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, complaints regarding construction activity more than two years old cannot be accepted.

- If a person identifies him/herself as a licensed contractor and it is discovered the person is not licensed, it is a violation of State and County Code. Complaints/violations may be reported using the online complaint form; or
- Call the Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300, TTY 711, to start the complaint process and an investigator from the Code Enforcement Branch will contact you; or
- Call the Virginia State Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation at 804-367-8500, TTY 711.

### What are the risks of Unlicensed Contractors?

In most circumstances, unlicensed contractors offer lower quotes because they do not pay a licensing fee, or obtain a bond to protect their work, and in many cases, don't purchase liability or workers compensation insurance. Without these

expenses, the unlicensed contractor can offer a lower rate.

Many things can go wrong on a construction site, from injuries to shoddy workmanship to destruction of power, sewer or water lines. Ultimately, all issues are the responsibility of the general contractor. The general contractor and their insurance carriers are the primary payers in the event something goes awry on the job.

What most people don't know is that if you don't hire a licensed and insured contractor to handle your project, **you're the general contractor!** If your unlicensed contractor breaks a sewer line, **you're responsible.** If a worker gets hurt and can't work for two years, and there's no workers compensation coverage in place, **you are on the hook** for that workers' medical bills and lost wages.

The implications of using an unlicensed contractor go beyond the risks associated with the property worked on and injury to the workers. A homeowner or association that hires an unlicensed contractor can also be liable for the negligence of the contractor.

A neighboring property, a passerby or other property that is negligently damaged by the contractor can lead to liability to the person that hired the contractor. As the contractor's employer the hiring party is responsible for the contractor's actions during the course of that employment.

When a general contractor takes on a job they have overall responsibility for legal compliance, safety, quality of workmanship and just about everything else that happens on the job site. What's more, your homeowners insurance or landlord liability insurance isn't going to cover you for these events.

All policies exempt damage caused by the use of illegal or unlicensed contractors. Fire and water damage can be... expensive. If an unlicensed contractor improperly installs an appliance, such as a water heater that leaks and in rare instances explodes, your insurance will not cover it. If an unlicensed contractor installs an appliance, such as a dishwasher, and so on, the product warranty will be voided.

If you knowingly enter into a contract with an unlicensed contractor, you are not allowed to use the fact that the contractor is unlicensed as a defense for non-payment. Note that an unlicensed contractor can still file suit for fraud and deceit.

Those who are caught contracting without a license likely will have to appear before a District Court Judge and DPOR investigator to answer to misdemeanor charges that can carry a potential sentence of up to six months in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine, as well as an administrative fine of \$200 to \$15,000.

If illegal contracting continues, the penalties become more severe. A second offense results in a mandatory 90-day jail sentence and a fine of 20 percent of the contract price or \$5,000. <https://vacode.org/54.1-1115/>

Felony charges are filed against anyone who illegally uses another person's contractor license or who tries to mislead consumers into believing that he or she is a licensed contractor. Anyone who contracts for work in a state or federal natural disaster area without an active state contractor license also could face felony charges. If convicted of a felony, a person may have to serve time in state prison.

Furthermore, your state contractor board will not "typically" help you to make a warranty claim "Contractor Recovery Fund" against an unlicensed contractor. So if you are trying to recover at all, you will need to go to civil court. Even if you win in civil court, without a bond, there's a good chance the unlicensed contractor will not be able to pay your damages.

Recently, Fairfax County has been using sites like Zillow and Realtor.com to see if improvements have been done when selling ones home! AGAIN, the days of hiring an unlicensed "Friend", or "Neighbor" to work for monetary purposes is strictly prohibited and is easily verified through <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>.

All in all, it's not worth it! Always protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor for your remodeling project.

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

## ONGOING

**Thanksgiving Food Drive with Reston Community Center**  
Friday, November 4 - Tuesday, November 22 In support of the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for local families and individuals served by Cornerstones, Reston Town Center is collecting donations of non-perishable food in building lobby boxes. To find a donation site near you check out the Bulletin listing in the Reston or Herndon Edition of the Connection Newspapers or visit: [restoncommunitycenter.com](http://restoncommunitycenter.com)

Food Drive with Drop Off Locations for Non-perishable and other Food Items November 1 - 21

**Reston Community Center** once again joins the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Cornerstones to help families in need. Patrons, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food and other items from November 1 - 21 at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods and Lake Anne facilities, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, as well as a variety of other drop-off points throughout the community.

**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 [ablowsen@gmail.com](mailto:ablowsen@gmail.com) for more information.

College Night Skate, Rock N Skate, Cartoon Skate at the Ice Skating Pavilion

Every Thursday, 6 - 9 p.m. - Every Friday, 8 - 10 p.m.

Skate Shop, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston Town Center. 11900 Market Street. Receive \$2 off admission with valid college ID. Live DJ & music, games & prizes; skating continues until 11 p.m. Share the ice with Scooby-Doo, Cat in the Hat and more. 703-709-6300 [skating@restontowncenter.com](mailto:skating@restontowncenter.com) [restontowncenter.com/skating](http://restontowncenter.com/skating)

**Ice Skating in the Pavilion** 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. open daily, November until March

## SATURDAY/NOV. 19

**Turkey Trot 5k Race.** Registration 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Herndon



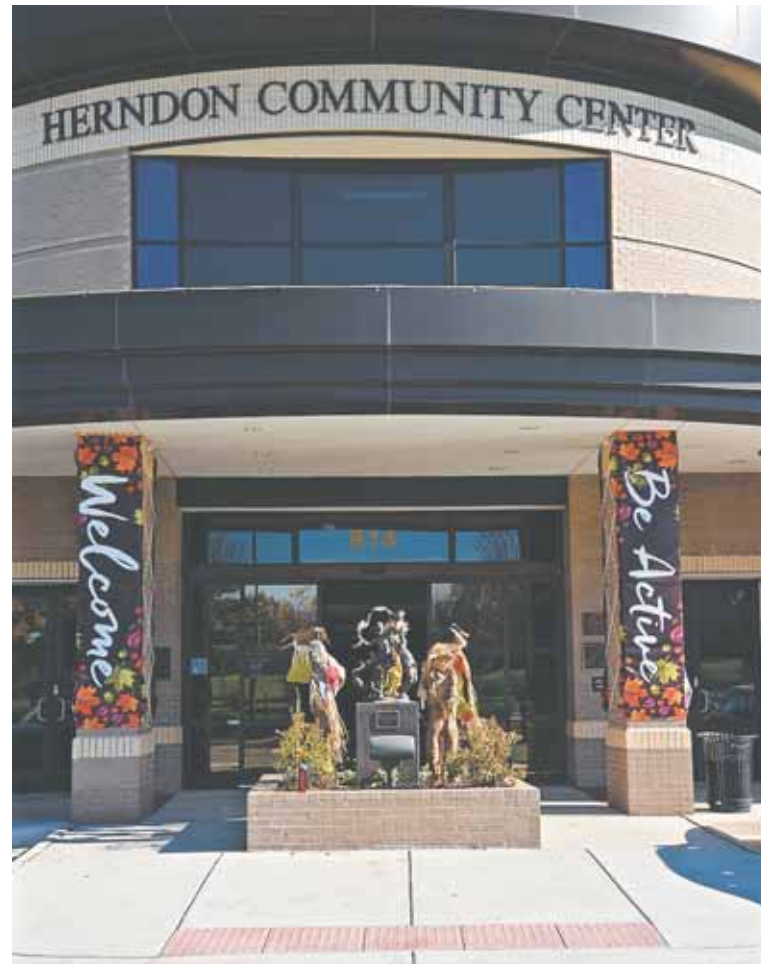
PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

**Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins rode an antique fire truck in the 2014 Reston Holiday Parade at Reston Town Center. This year's Reston Holiday Parade begins Friday Nov. 25 at 11 a.m. There will be Macy's-style balloons, musicians, dancers, antique cars, characters, community groups, dignitaries, special guest emcees, and more. The celebration takes place at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Reston Holiday Parade on Market Street, tree lighting at Fountain Square. Rain or shine.**

Community Center Gym 814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon, VA 20170. Race begins at 4 p.m. Runners and walkers get ready for a 5K trail

course at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. [www.herndon-va.gov/recreation](http://www.herndon-va.gov/recreation)

**Meet the Author: Aaron Roy Even**



**The Herndon Community Center at 814 Ferndale Avenue will be the scene of a number of holiday happenings, including a large Arts and Crafts Fair and a Holiday Storybook Holiday Celebration. The Arts and Crafts Fair takes place Sunday Dec. 4 from 10 - 4 p.m. Admission is free. the Storybook Holiday Celebration will be held on Saturday Dec. 17 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$9 per child and includes craft projects, a visit with Santa and a reading of a holiday story by a special guest.**

at 2:00 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Join the author as he discusses his new book, "He Comes In Fire," a gripping crime thriller set in a small Virginia community. Books available for sale and signing.

Reservations: 703-925-8250 [opentable.com/tavern-64](http://opentable.com/tavern-64)

## THURSDAY/NOV. 24

**Seasonal Thanksgiving Buffet at Tavern64** 11 - 6 p.m. They will be serving their full seasonal Thanksgiving buffet spread. \$54 per person, \$27 children 12 and under.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 25, 2016

**26th Annual Reston Holiday Parade.** 11 a.m. with Macy's-style balloons, musicians, dancers, antique cars, characters, community groups, dignitaries, special guest emcees, and much more. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Reston Holiday Parade on Market Street, tree lighting at Fountain Square. Rain or shine. <https://>



**Roberta Thole's show includes paintings from her four decades as a professional artist.**

## Roberta Thole Presents 'Then and Now' at Reston Art Gallery & Studios

Roberta Thole presents "Then and Now" on exhibit now through Dec. 1. All are welcome to visit the working studio to see the display during weekend gallery hours, or by appointment, or by chance at Reston Art Gallery & Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston.

Along with new works, Thole says this show will include paintings from her four decades as a professional artist. For more information call RAGS at 703-481-8156, find it on Facebook, and visit [RestonArtGallery.com](http://RestonArtGallery.com).

Roberta Thole's contemporary and abstract works visually contain times past and present, with imagery and ideas of Greco-Roman antiquity. Known for her use of copper and fresco, her canvases are richly textured with geometric and architectural elements resembling ancient walls and ruins, resulting in a range of timeless, complex works. Her strong interest in classical symbolism was developed in her collegiate teaching

background in art history, humanities, and drawing. Find more information about Roberta Thole on [RestonArtGallery.com](http://RestonArtGallery.com).

## Upcoming at Reston Art Gallery & Studios

The November show at RAGS will be followed by "Holiday Sparkle." Reception: Saturday, Dec. 10, 2—4 p.m. Exhibit: Dec. 2 through Jan. 19. The annual show of seasonal works by all nine of the artists of RAGS runs Dec. 2



www.restontowncenter.com/

#### Visits & Photos with Santa & Mrs.

**Claus** 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. next to Skate Shop. Donations for a 5 x 7 portrait benefit South Lakes High School Chorus.

**Mini-Train Rides** 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. Departures on Market Street next to Talbots. Donations benefit Cornerstones. <https://www.restontowncenter.com/>

**Conservatory Ballet Performance** 5 p.m. Fountain Square Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. The Nutcracker's Land of the Snow dance will be performed by Conservatory Ballet Repertoire des Etoiles in front of the huge Christmas tree.

**Tree Lighting & Sing-Along** 6 pm, Fountain Square Reston Town Center 11900 Market St.

See Santa and Mrs. Claus magically light up the Christmas tree, followed by a holiday sing-along with The Reston Chorale.

**Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride**, 6:30 - 10 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. Departures on Market Street next to Talbots. \$5 per person, children 5 and under ride free. All proceeds benefit Volunteer Fairfax.

**Gingerbread Village at the Hyatt Regency** Reston Reston Town Center, 1800 Presidents St, Reston. A holiday tradition since 1990, on display all season in the main lobby.

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**Holiday Arts and Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. Handcrafted items and fine art will be on sale. Including wreaths, quilts, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, photography and stained glass. [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).

**Book Sale** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston, VA 20190. Start your shopping early. Come browse and buy - we have lots of gift-quality books. Call 703-689-2700 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 17.

**A Storybook Holiday Celebration.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. Bring your child to enjoy some holiday fun. Cost includes craft projects, a visit with Santa and a reading of a holiday story by a special guest. \$9/child.

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR,  
PAGE 10

through Jan. 19. All are welcome to the Dec. 10 reception to enjoy complimentary refreshments, meet the artists, and enjoy the exhibit of fine art and hand-made jewelry, all available for purchase.

Reston Art Gallery & Studios (RAGS) is located at 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston.

General Hours: Saturdays, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Sundays, 12 until 5 p.m. Weekdays, by chance or appointment. Children's Art Workshops - free, themed art classes for children, ages 3 - 11 years Saturdays, 10 a.m. until noon.

For more information call RAGS at 703-481-8156, find it on Facebook, and visit [RestonArtGallery.com](http://RestonArtGallery.com).

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY TONY DE LA PAZ

## Classical Ballet Theatre to Present Classic Nutcracker

Experience the magic of Classical Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker. Performed at the 520-seat Ernst Theater, this holiday classic includes all of the stunning costumes, dancing, and enchantment necessary to bring Clara's dream to life. Join Clara for a mischievously fun family holiday party, an epic battle between the Mouse King and Nutcracker, and a captivating journey with her Nutcracker Prince.

Saturday, Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. at Ernst Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. More Information: <http://www.cbntva.org/nutcracker>



PHOTO BY KATIE DE LA PAZ

Children enjoy being photographed with dancers.

## Introducing Children to Nutcracker

Introduce your young child to the performing arts with Children's Series Nutcracker. Launched in 2010-2011 as part of Classical Ballet Theatre's mission to bring art into community, our Children's Series Nutcracker is a condensed version of the popular holiday classic. This production with stunning costumes and beautiful choreography is perfect for toddlers and preschoolers as well as their families. Children delight in the

approximately 40-minute performance followed by a short question and answer session and memorable photographs with dancers. Invite your friends and bring your camera for after the show.

Performances Saturday, Nov. 19 and Sunday, Nov. 20 at noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. at

Classical Ballet Theatre, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. More Information: <http://www.cbntva.org/childrenseries>

## Annual Ecumenical-Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

**November 23, 2016, at 7:30 PM**  
11508 North Shore Drive, Reston, VA 20190



Join faith communities and local leaders as we come together in celebration of the diversity of people and faiths. The service will include the Shoresham Community, All Dulles Muslim Society (ADAMS), Martin Luther King, Jr., Congregation Beth Emeth and Beloved Yoga., Virginia Delegate Ken Plum and Hunter Mill County Supervisor, Cathy Hudgins.

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7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Sunday School: preschool - grade 2  
Music: grades 3 - 7  
10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6  
Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service  
Nursery care provided at 9:00 a.m. service  
The Rev. John C. N. Hall, Rector  
The Rev. Laura Cochran  
703-437-6530  
[www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org)  
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



**To Highlight  
your Faith  
Community,  
Call Karen at  
703-917-6468**



**You are invited to our "Calling for Peace" event to support the production of a documentary-drama film "Sacred Connection" This will be a sequel to the award winning "Jasmenco".**

## EVENT DETAILS

**Date & Time: Saturday, November 19th, 2016  
5:00pm to 8:00pm**

**Location: 1855 St Frances St, Reston, VA 20190 (Penthouse)**  
Free parking available at 11900 Market St, Reston, VA 20190

**Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served**  
**Dress Code: Jacket for Gentlemen & Cocktail Dress for Ladies**  
**\$60 per ticket (Student discount offered at the door)**

**Purchase tickets via**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/calling-for-peace-tickets-28919969407>

Please print your ticket and bring it with you  
A 501c will be provided for a tax refund on your donation  
**Questions? Please contact [Nawara@DaraGlobalArts.com](mailto:Nawara@DaraGlobalArts.com)**



## NEWS

### Opportunity Neighborhood Launches in Reston

Event signifies community commitment to making opportunity a reality for children, youth and families.

A motivated audience of Reston-area residents, nonprofits, schools, county programs, businesses, faith organizations and elected officials gathered at South Lakes High School to launch the Reston Opportunity Neighborhood (“RestON”) movement.

RestON is a commitment by community partners to work together in a focused and strategic way to improve outcomes for children, youth and families. Whether it is in areas of health, or being ready and prepared for school, feeling safe in our home and community, or having a plan for graduation and beyond—Opportunity Neighborhood helps our community identify the priorities and work together toward that change.

“Opportunity Neighborhood is a framework adopted by Fairfax County to enable communities like ours to look at the concerns, data, performance and assets, decide what is most important to us, and to bring together the people and institutions that can change that picture. This helps our community identify the priorities and work together toward that change. No single organization, business or person can accomplish the task of long-term social change for youth and families on its own. We all do better when we all do better,” said Supervisor Hudgins.

♦ Andy Sigle, South Lakes High School PTSA President (event emcee)

♦ Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill District (planning partner)

♦ Douglas Tyson, Assistant Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools (planning partner)

♦ Greg White, Chief Operating Officer, Cornerstones (partner and facilitator)

♦ Leila Gordon, Executive Director, Reston Community Center (planning partner and launch sponsor)

Greg White, COO at Cornerstones, shared with the crowd, “This collaboration provides the opportunity to understand what is happening in our community, see where we are not measuring up—or where there is unequal access to opportunity, and then set goals together to help change that picture for all children and youth. I know personally and professionally the importance of community in reaching young people and offering them chances and choice in their lives. If it hadn’t been for mentors in my life—I was headed down a path that others had prescribed for me. Now, we want to do the same in our community.”

Fairfax County established the “Opportunity Neighborhood” initiative to encourage neighborhoods to get involved in building and sustaining a thriving community. RestON is one of two active “Opportunity Neighborhood” communities in Fairfax County to date. By bringing communities together to address goals for all children, the initiative coordinates existing efforts to maximize their impact, helps build a strong academic foundation for every child, enhances family resilience and involves families and the larger community in a culture of engagement, connectedness and success.

Information about RestON: An Opportunity Neighborhood can be found at [www.cornerstonesva.org/rest-on](http://www.cornerstonesva.org/rest-on), or by emailing [ON@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:ON@cornerstonesva.org) or calling 571.323.9555. For information about the Fairfax County Opportunity Neighborhood Initiative, see [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/prevention/opportunity\\_neighborhoods.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/prevention/opportunity_neighborhoods.htm)

### Deer Feeding Ban Is In Effect

Many residents enjoy seeing white-tailed deer up close and may feel they are contributing to the animal’s welfare by providing supplemental food. Unfortunately, feeding deer can have unintended negative consequences and often does more harm than good. Feeding deer can lead to nutritional problems, increased habitat damage where high density herds are concentrated, dangerous encounters when animals lose their natural fear of humans and feeding can facilitate the spread of diseases among wildlife that congregate in feeding areas. Not only do wildlife officials recommend against feeding deer, it is against the law to feed deer in Fairfax County for the majority of the year—according to FCPD Bureau of Public Affairs.

Feeding deer for any reason is illegal statewide within Virginia from Sept. 1 to the first Saturday in January (4VAC15-40-285). Further, it is illegal to feed deer in any city, town, or county during any deer or elk hunting season. Effectively,

this means it is illegal to feed deer in Fairfax County from Sept. 1 through the last Sunday in April to coincide with the deer hunting season. The feeding ban applies to both public lands and private properties within the Commonwealth.

The feeding ban restricts the placement or distribution of any food, salt, mineral or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the attraction of and/or feeding of deer.

If anyone suspects someone of illegally feeding deer during this time period, or observes any violations, they are asked to please report it to DGIF’s Wildlife Crime Line at 1-800-237-5712 or email [WildCrime@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:WildCrime@dgif.virginia.gov).

For additional information on managing wildlife interactions and resolving human-wildlife conflicts, the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline is available toll-free at 855-571-9003, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This helpline is a collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services.

## PEOPLE

### Lily Siegel Appointed Executive Director and Curator of the GRACE

The Board of Directors for the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) announced the appointment of Lily Siegel as the Center’s Executive Director and Curator. She will start on Dec. 5. The appointment comes at an important time in the Center’s history, as it builds out its Destination GRACE vision of becoming an even more robust cultural institution in the DC metropolitan region, coinciding with the arrival of the Metrorail’s Silver Line.

“GRACE is a strong regional voice well poised for national impact. Together with the terrific Board of Directors and staff, I will promote that development through a robust exhibition program that includes local and international artists shown side-by-side,” Siegel said. “We will expand the scope of educational programing, both in regional schools and in the gallery, by emphasizing the promotion of art to enrich community. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival will continue to grow by broadening the opportunities for artists and the public to get involved.”

Siegel received her BA (Visual Arts: History and Criticism) from the University of California San Diego and her MA (Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism) from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). She began her career as a curatorial assistant at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, followed by tenures as the Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the High Museum in Atlanta and then as the Associate Curator at The Contemporary Jewish Museum (The CJM) in San Francisco. Since moving to Washington, D.C., just over a year ago, she has continued her relationship with The CJM as a guest curator for the exhibition From Gen-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lily Siegel

eration to Generation: Inherited Memory in Contemporary Art, which opens on Nov. 25. She will be presenting an exhibition on the late artist Moira Dryer, Moira Dryer: Vice Versa (working title), at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. in Spring 2018. Exhibition research for Moira Dryer: Vice Versa has been supported by

a Curatorial Fellowship from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

“Lily has already achieved a great deal in her young career, which speaks to her special talents,” said Robert Goudie, GRACE Board Chair. “She brings outstanding academic achievement, a passion for contemporary art, a demonstrated ability to raise money for and manage significant projects, and a national perspective, relationships, and experiences. She’s exactly the right person to lead us forward in our determination to become an even more impactful presence in the metropolitan area’s visual arts landscape. We could not be more excited to have her assuming the leadership of the organization.”

“I am honored by this opportunity and look forward to getting to work. The chance to lead this dynamic period of growth and extend GRACE’s already well-established reputation for quality is a compelling combination for me,” said Siegel. “GRACE has a rich history in the community. As the community grows—with the coming of Metrorail and extension of the DC metro area—so will GRACE.”

**David Clark poses for a photo after being recognized as a member of the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. Only 125 high school marching band members among the millions in the United States are selected.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



### David Clark Recognized As a Member of the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl presented by American Family Insurance Selection Tour visited South Lakes High School to recognize David Clark as a member of the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band, honoring this student before his fellow band members, classmates, friends and family during a special recognition event.

The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band performs each year at halftime of the nation-

ally-broadcast U.S. Army All-American Bowl. By becoming a U.S. Army All-American, Clark is joining an elite group. Only 125 high school marching band members among the millions in the United States are selected. Band members are chosen not just because they excel musically, but because they are mentally and physically agile, they know the importance of teamwork, and they are able to adapt to challenging situations, similar to U.S. Army Soldiers.



## COMMUNITY

### Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race to Be Held Saturday, Nov. 19

Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon.

Runners and walkers will face a fun 5K trail course, which winds around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Packet pick-up and race day registration run from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Long-sleeved Sport Tek T-shirts guaranteed to the first 900 pre-registered runners. Shirts must be picked up the day of the race. Shirts will not be available after race day. Refreshments, entertainment and door prizes will be available after the race to all runners.

Preregistration ends on Friday, Nov. 18 at noon. Race day registration is from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. in the Herndon Community Center Gym. Strollers, bikes and dogs are not permitted to participate in the race. Runners of all ages are welcome to compete and prizes will be awarded to winners male and female in the following age groups: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 & over. Overall male and female winners will be given a Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings. Registration is currently available at the Herndon Community Center and online at <http://herndon-va/events> and [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

Cost: Pre-Registration: \$30 for Adults (Age 19 & Up) + Can of food; \$20 for Youth (Age 18 & Under) + Can of food. Pre-registration ends at noon on Nov. 18.

Race Day Registration: \$35 for Adults (Age 19 & Up) + Can of food; \$20 for Youth (Age 18 & Under) + Can of food. Race day registration is limited and will end at 3:30 p.m. All food will be donated to LINK.



Runners and walkers will face a fun 5K trail course, which winds around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Registrations are currently being accepted for the Herndon Turkey Trot.



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PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

**The 1K Fun Runners gather at the starting line and wait for their 8:05 a.m. start, five minutes after the 5K race began.**



**Julian Jackson, 6, of Fairfax nears the finish line. He was the first to finish the 1K Fun Run. He, his mother Maia McCuiston and his brother Daniel Jackson, 9, ran in memory of his grandfather, Frederick McCuiston, Jr., who was a veteran of the Air Force.**

## Region Races For 'Team Red, White & Blue'

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ore than 600 people from all over the greater Washington area braved 30-degree weather on Sunday morning to salute veterans and members of the military by running in Dominion Consulting's Third Annual Veterans Day 5K.

The Reston organization partnered with Potomac River Running to host the race at the Fairfax Corner shopping center.

Keith Freeburn, 42, of Centreville was the first male to finish the 3.1-mile race in 17 minutes and 50 seconds, while Eryn Caton, 34, of Falls Church crossed the finish line in 19 minutes and 12 seconds, according to Commonwealth Race Management.

A smaller crowd also ran or walked in the event's 1K Fun Run.

Julian Jackson, 6, of Fairfax was the first to finish. He, his mother Maia McCuiston

and his brother Daniel Jackson, 9, ran in memory of his grandfather, Frederick McCuiston, Jr., who was a veteran of the Air Force.

"We have a few causes that we support, one being veterans," says Scott Gold, a senior manager for Dominion Consulting, Inc.

His organization regularly supports the Fisher House Foundation, a network of homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving medical treatment, and Our Military Kids, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides grants to children of service members. The children of parents who were wounded or killed while serving in any branch of the military and children who have parents who are deployed National Guardsman or reservists in the Army Reserve are eligible for the grants, which fund activities that help kids cope with the associated stress and anxiety.

Sunday's race was all about helping a



**Isabella Back, 17, warms up for the race by jogging back and forth. A senior at Herndon High School, Back received a four-year scholarship to join the Navy ROTC when she graduates. She hopes to attend Yale University. She finished the race in 26 minutes and 37 seconds.**



**Eryn Caton, 34, of Falls Church breaks the finish line tape with a 19-minute-and-12-second-finish. She was the fastest female of the race.**



**Christopher Scalia, 40, of Fairfax stretches before the race. He ran for his brother who serves in the Army and finished in 20 minutes and 46 seconds.**

third organization that also provides distraction therapy. Donations from participants and proceeds from registration fees will benefit Team Red, White & Blue.

Team RWB's official mission is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity. This is because the national organization's founders noticed that service members tended to stick to themselves when they returned from deployment, according to Michael Lynch, running coordinator for Team RWB's D.C. chapter.

Members of Team RWB's D.C. chapter regularly rock climb, volunteer and plan

activities that get its military and civilian members to mingle and be physically active.

"Just by getting vets out who have issues [post-traumatic stress disorder] gets them involved and gives them two hours or so to not think about those things," says Lynch, who is a veteran of the Air Force.

More than 50 of Team RWB's D.C. members ran in the race, while more than 30 volunteered to help make the event happen.

"I personally prefer helping small organizations because they need all the help they can get," says Gold, who worked at a small nonprofit organization in Atlanta, Georgia, before he started working for his technology and management consulting firm. "You really know that you're really helping."



# Decking the Halls, Stuffing Bellies

**Local cooking schools offer crash courses in holiday dishes.**

Ever since Bernadette Lott can remember, she's had a sweet tooth as big as a sugarcane field. Describing herself as a hard and fast confection lover of the extreme type, she thinks her predilection for all things candy-coated probably started with her grandmother, who pretended not to notice when she devoured spoonfuls of sugar while the two were baking.

"I must have been three or four, standing on a stool in the kitchen, craning my neck to see," said Lott.

In fact, baking was a hobby she honed at her grandmother's hand, which later became a practical skill. She learned that in order to satisfy her ravenous sugar cravings, be they for shiny glazed lemon tarts or gooey chocolate trifles moistened with rum, she needed to learn to bake.

"I think my first word was cake," Lott said. "I love to bake, but I also do my fair share of tasting."

It's no wonder that for Lott and other foodies, the holidays offer a chance to legitimize an obsession with baking marathons that, if done at any other time of the year, might appear to be chocolate-covered-insanity.

In response, dozens of local chefs and culinary enthusiasts are rolling out a slew of holiday cooking classes this season. Want to make your own lemon rugelach? Considering letting your children take over the gingerbread baking? Interested in assembling a buche noel? From the informal classes that Lott runs out of her Alexandria kitchen to formal cooking schools with classes taught by professional chefs, there's instruction for students at both ends of the skills spectrum.

"These cooking classes help people get into the holiday spirit," said Toni Lipe of Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna, Virginia. "They learn to make things that they can wrap in paper and ribbon and give as gifts."

Students at Culinaria enter a holiday cookie paradise of softened butter, vanilla and coconut, and spend hours cutting, rolling and decorating, emerging at the end of class with boxes of rugelach, almond macaroons and other confections.

"The classes are filled with laughter and chatter," said Lipe. "It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."

In Lott's lessons, which she runs informally out of her home – students discover her through word of mouth – she demonstrates tooth-achingly rich buche de noel and fudge-filled, whiskey-soaked chocolate bundt cake recipes. A limited class size allows her to guide students through the process,



**Friends Terri Carr and Elaine Agran have a decades-long tradition of baking holiday cookies for friends and family.**

**Terri Carr bakes, decorates and packages holiday cookies, which she sends to friends and family.**

PHOTOS  
COURTESY OF  
TERRI CARR



cess, from melting chocolate over simmering water to adding a good dousing of liqueur to the mixture and beating it into a fluffy batter before sliding it into the oven.

"Some of my best holiday childhood memories were baking with my family," said Lott. "I love being able to share that love with other people so that they can create

their own memories."

During her lessons, students rummage through a treasure trove of cookie cutters in shapes ranging from angels and wreaths to starfish and rosebuds. After mixing flour and nutmeg with lemon zest and vanilla extract, then chilling, rolling and cutting the dough, their effort bursts forth in the form

**"The classes are filled with laughter and chatter. It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."**

**— Toni Lipe of Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna, Virginia**

of highly spiced citrus, ginger cookies.

"I still like nibbling the cookie dough as much as I did when I was a little kid," said Claudia Yost, a recent student.

Even the youngest gourmands can add calorie-laden joy to the world this season. Diminutive cooks-in-training use seasonal bounty to create child-friendly versions of traditional Thanksgiving fare at Tiny Chefs cooking school. They use yeast, flour and sweet potatoes to create warm, fluffy doughnuts, encased in sugar that crunch slightly to the bite.

"Cooking during the holidays, and at any time, builds memories and gives them skills that they can use when they're responsible for preparing dinners later on down the road," said Katie Raguindin of Tiny Chefs.

In the gingerbread house-making class, instructors support children's imaginations, encouraging the wackiest, most creative designs, propelled by a rainbow of colored icing and decorative candies. There's even a gift class where they fill mason jars with ingredients for cookie dough. The project becomes present-ready when topped with shiny bows.

"We're giving them a nice way to participate with the holiday cooking," said Raguindin. "It's a good family activity, and they can remember for years to come that they got to cook with Mom and Dad for Christmas dinner."

Even as adults, life-long friends can relive their childhood sugarplum fantasies. At the start of the holiday season, Terri Carr and Elaine Agran gather in Carr's Potomac, Maryland, kitchen to preserve a baking tradition that spans more than three decades. For four days and four nights, the two friends lose themselves in a shrine of softened butter, flour and sugar, emerging with several thousand sugar cookies that they package and ship to friends, family and colleagues.

"We take turns. One of us sleeps while the other one bakes," said Carr, of Terri's Table, a cooking school she runs out of her home.

This year, Carr's holiday classes are focused on Thanksgiving, teaching students to make both main and side dishes, and ending with a crunchy and deeply nutty pecan pie.

At the end of her classes, Carr sets a festive table around which her apprentices gather and nosh on the fruits of their holiday labor until the last crumb is devoured.



## Feeling a Little Better



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Just as last week's column attempted to describe the loss a surviving cancer patient feels when a fellow cancer patient succumbs to his disease, this week's column will attempt the opposite: describe the feeling a surviving cancer patient feels when a new lung cancer patient joins the club. Specifically, an individual (who I met this week, coincidentally) who exudes the kind of confidence and positive attitude necessary to endure the bumpy road ahead. Unfortunately, one doesn't always have the luxury to avoid the road/not join the club; to quote Groucho Marx: "I don't want to belong to a club that will accept me as a member." If only it were that funny - and simple.

With respect to lung cancer patients, typically a late-stage diagnosis: stage IV (there is no stage V), is heard early on the initial appointment with one's oncologist. Given that there is at present, no agreed-upon approach to screen for lung cancer and in many cases, patients are often symptom-free or experiencing discomfort not in the lungs; nor having any difficulty breathing, coughing or coughing up blood, among other symptoms, especially so for non-smokers who now represent upwards of 25 percent of new lung cancer patients, this is not uncommon. For multiple reasons then, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in this country, projected at 158,000 in 2016, as well the leading cause of new cases of cancer reported every year, projected at 225,000, "more than colon, breast and prostate cancer combined," according to cancer.org. One percent live beyond two years, according to cancer.net

Generally speaking then, one can say, with a reasonable amount of confidence, that receiving a diagnosis of lung cancer is devastating news and for a few days anyway, knocks the wind completely out of your sails, even if you don't own a sailboat. It's almost impossible, eight years post-diagnosis, to articulate exactly how I felt when a doctor (an oncologist) whom I had never met told me I had stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer and advised me I had "13 months to two years" to live (I was 54 and a half at the time and a life-long non-smoker). Out of the blue doesn't even begin to describe my reaction. Surreal, which was my general sense of what I had just heard is also a very common description, as I have likewise heard and read from other newly diagnosed cancer patients.

So you need to find help anywhere you can get it. For me, the most valuable help was/is emotional: people being supportive, encouraging, funny, unafraid to face my reality and most importantly, positive - about the negative. Don't tell me anything that I'm doing is bad. Tell me everything I'm doing is good. Minimize the negative and maximize the positive. Don't be overconfident but do be underwhelmed. Take my circumstances in stride. Don't walk quietly and don't carry a big stick. Treat me normally - in spite of my cancer, as you would had I not been so diagnosed. If I am treated in these ways, I will - and think I have become, a welcome addition to the club. Because this is a club that needs individuals to step up and fight not only for themselves but for to others as well. And if in fact what goes around comes around, I will be similarly embraced and moreover, cared for and about; and it's the strength in these numbers that will empower me to be the best cancer patient I can. And when I meet a fellow cancer patient, this how I will roll: concerned but emotionally available, serious but funny, respectful but disarming, realistic but hopeful and always positive about their negative. If I am turn treated in a similar way and the patient expresses the kind of good-in-the-locker-room type of attitude necessary for the long journey ahead, I will feel stronger and more hopeful for my own circumstances than I would have had I not met this new patient. Cancer shouldn't be a singular pursuit. I need your help, and I'm willing to offer mine. If we help other, we'll both be better served because of it. This is not meant to be selfish, it is meant to be selfless. There is no "I" in cancer.

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

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## NEWS

### Catch of the Day

**Cole Loveman, 16, caught this 7 pounder on a gorgeous fall Sunday morning from a pontoon boat on Lake Anne close to the dam by Wiehle Avenue.**



PHOTO BY  
FRAN LOVAAS

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](mailto:connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) by noon on Friday.

Food Drive with Drop Off Locations for Non-perishable and other Food Items  
November 1 - 21

Reston Community Center once again joins the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Cornerstones to help families in need. Patrons, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food and other items from November 1 – 21 at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods and Lake Anne facilities, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, as well as a variety of other drop-off points throughout the community.

Current Drop-off Locations:  
Reston Community Center HW 2310 Colts Neck Rd Reston, VA  
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Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce  
1866 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230 Reston, VA  
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% Milk (evaporated, condensed, dry, soy, etc.)  
% Oatmeal, Pancake Mixes, Other Breakfast Items  
- See more at: <http://restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/event-detail/2016/11/02/default-calendar/thanksgiving-food-drive-2016#sthash.oH0G7ZLV.dpuf>

Toy Drive in Collaboration with Nonprofit FISH Through Dec. 16

Stop by 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive any weekday from 9-4 and drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon/Reston children via the non-profit Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. Toys should be for the ages of Newborn to 16. The last day for donations is December 16. Call 703-860-4600 for more information.

### ONGOING

**Passages Divorce Care.** Tuesdays 6:45 to 9:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 13 through Jan. 7. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna, Virginia. Cost to cover materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938-9050, [www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org), or send an email to [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Also visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/).

**Fairfax County** needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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**OBITUARY**  
**Mrs. Nancy Gilpin Robertson, 88**, passed away quietly at her home in Reston, Virginia on Monday, November 7, 2016. She was born Nancy Arthington Gilpin on August 17, 1928 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Her husband of 49 years, Rolfe Robertson, Jr., preceded her in death in 1999.

Nancy completed her secondary education at the Shipley school in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1945. She received a bachelor of arts degree in child psychology from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York in 1949. She lived in Fairfax, Virginia for 38 years where she raised her six children.

For the last 15 years Nancy resided at Stratford House condominiums in Reston, Virginia where she met many new and beloved friends who joined her in her love of bridge, opera, entertaining and current events. A woman of many talents and a sharp wit, Nancy was a voracious reader and lover of crossword puzzles. One of Nancy's favorite places to be was sitting oceanside on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

She often said she was lucky to be born in the greatest generation where she was fortunate enough to go from the model T to man on the moon to using the World Wide Web.

Nancy or "Baba" took tremendous pride in her family and is survived by her six children: Caroline Cross (Jack) of Manassas Virginia, Peyton Procaccini (Joe) of Easton, Maryland, Rolfe Robertson, III of Saint George Utah, Nancy Mcnerney (Marty) of McLean, Virginia, Charlotte Kettler (Bob) of McLean, Virginia and Wyndham Robertson (Buffy) of Oakton, Virginia, 21 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. A memorial service for Nancy Robertson will take place at 11 AM on Friday, November 11, 2016, at Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church, 3401 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the charity of your choice in Nancys name.

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The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring **Field Representatives/ Field Supervisors** in your area. If you are customer focused, self-motivated and have excellent communication skills, please call 1-800-563-6499 for more information and to be scheduled for a testing near you.

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# Give Locally

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counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit <http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org>

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, [cause-usa.org](http://cause-usa.org)

❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. <http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/>

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. [www.capitalareafoodbank.org](http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org)

❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: [jhenderson@homestretchva.org](mailto:jhenderson@homestretchva.org); 703-237-2035 x125; <http://homestretchva.org/volunteer/>

❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390 [info@pathwayhomes.org](mailto:info@pathwayhomes.org) <http://www.pathwayhomes.org> <http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/>

## Volunteer Locally Through Volunteer Fairfax

❖ **Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread):** Sponsor individuals and families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area for Thanksgiving meals, December holiday meals and/or gifts for children in December. Britepaths will send you information on a person/family who meets your criteria, and you will contact them and arrange to deliver food and/or gifts. You may also donate funds to help us assist those who are not sponsored. To sponsor a family or make a donation, visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

**The Holiday Project:** Share the spirit of the season with The Holiday Project, a non-profit organization that organizes visits to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities during the holiday season. Bring the spirit of a holiday to those who might not otherwise have a celebration. Visits occur throughout the metropolitan area. Dates and times of visits vary by location; for more information visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

**Cornerstones:** Volunteer to accept gifts from donors and get them ready for distribution to local families, or assist families that are picking up gifts with getting items to their car. Several shifts are available. Good for adults, families and corporate groups. Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17. Times vary. To sign-up or learn more please contact us at <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

**New Hope Housing:** Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday, New Hope Housing provides nearly 200 food baskets to clients living in our community housing programs. Volunteers ensure that families are able to have a special and memorable holiday. Volunteers can sign up to help by hosting a Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive, donating a food basket for a single adult or family, donating grocery store gift cards for clients to purchase turkeys (grocery stores along Route 1 are best), signing up to drop off Christmas dinner at one of our Permanent Supportive Housing sites.

<http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Sign up to help ensure that children in those families receive holiday gifts this year. You can volunteer to help by adopting a child and fulfilling his or her holiday wish list. Wish lists are available now. Donating gift cards for parents to purchase their children new clothing. Stores along Route 1 are best. Hosting a special program for the children, such as holiday card and gift making for their parents.

To sign up, fill out the following form and a member of the New Hope Housing team will respond as soon as possible <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

**Richard Byrd Library:** Semi-annual Holiday used book sale at Richard Byrd Library in Springfield. Pre-Sale: (Nov. 28 - 30) volunteers will set up tables, organize sale area, post signs, lift/move crates of books, sort books. During Sale: (Dec. 1 - 4) volunteers will assist shoppers; restock sale items, clear sale area as

## COMMENTARY

# Making High School More Meaningful

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

**A**s an avid user of social media I was surprised that a link to a Forbes article I posted recently on Facebook on "Why We Desperately Need to Bring Back Vocational Training in Schools" had been shared by nearly a hundred of my friends on their own pages (<http://onforb.es/1L1ZtIA>). Obviously the subject hit a chord of interest on the part of many people. The author Nicholas Wyman asserts that the "college-for-everyone" attitude has pushed vocational and career education programs to the margins. He says that "if we want everyone's kid to succeed, we need to bring vocational education back to the core of high school learning." He is not alone in his belief as evidenced by the wide range of readership of his article. I can relate to what he has to say because for several of the years of my 30-year career with Fairfax County Public Schools my job title was director of vocational and adult education.

There is widespread interest in a redesign of high school education. As many point out, high schools are largely operated under an industrial model that has not changed in 100 years, even though the world around public schools has undergone major changes. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded Next Generation Learning Challenges that has funded dozens of new schools around the country that take new approaches to learning that include online and personalized learning. More recently, Laurene Powell Jobs, widow of Apple's Steve Jobs, has put up \$50 million

to support competition on the redesign of public high schools. Her effort, XQ: The Super School Project, hopes to lead to community efforts to overhaul high schools to be more relevant, more engaging and more successful at turning out students who can compete in a fast-evolving economy. (<https://xqsuperschool.org/>)

Fortunately, Virginia is underway with its own effort to redesign high school. Secretary of Education for Virginia, Dr. Dietra Trent, wrote recently that the Board of Education is developing new graduation requirements that aligns programs with the skills every student should have upon graduation, removing the pressure of high-stakes testing, and ensuring that all students are exposed to 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Under the new model that is being considered, the first two years of high school would focus more on core classes while the next two years would allow for experiential learning, internships, externships, on-the-job training, and other opportunities. As the Secretary explained it, "by adding experiential learning opportunities, expanding how credits can be earned and developing a variety of rigorous new pathways to graduation, high school redesign will finally unleash the full potential of our teachers, our students and our schools."

A unifying topic I find among my constituents is the desire that we have the best schools possible for our children and grandchildren. I like the work that is going on in many places to rethink how we do schooling, especially at the high school level. With the wonderful schools we have in our community we need to examine the requirements of our schools to ensure that we provide students with opportunities to explore, create, innovate and become lifelong learners.

# Reston Joins Capital BikeShare

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

**L**ast Saturday, the Reston Farmers Market of ficially closed its 19<sup>th</sup> season at Lake Anne. We marked the occasion with our traditional "Customer Appreciation Day," thanking customers with free sweet baked goods and apple cider from vendors, and hot coffee provided by the Co-Market Masters.

We also had special guests from Fairfax County's Capital BikeShare program, complete with one of their distinctive fire engine red bicycles. In addition to the BikeShare promoters taking turns riding around a busy market, they let me take my first spin on the bike, too. I haven't ridden a bicycle in quite a few years; but like they say, once you know how you never forget. In fact, I was surprised how comfortable it felt and how smoothly it rode. It had a simple three-speed shift so I could handle it and a bell so I could warn shoppers I was coming.

We were delighted to have BikeShare show off at the Market. Like many others, we are excited about the program and think it's a nifty addition to Reston. The program burst onto the scene in Reston just a few months ago, and already there are nine bike docks in place with more than 100 bikes, principally around the Wiehle Metro station and Reston Town Center. Six more docks are planned, including two coming to serve Lake Anne before the end of the year—one on Village Road, the other at the Crescent Apartments. We can hardly wait.

Like the bikes themselves, the service is simple and easy to use. You can rent a bike for a day, 3 days, a month or a full year—24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Go to [www.capitalbikeshare](http://www.capitalbikeshare) for a map of locations, how to rent, etc.

We're looking forward to renting bikes for recreation—for example, along the W & OD trail and Reston's fine pathways, which have lovely scenery and are safe. The bikes are great for running errands or connecting with Metro. We'll be able to ride from Lake Anne to Wiehle Metro, go downtown, use BikeShare in DC, and ride back home on our return—without having to worry about parking, or paying for it. Same for going to/from Town Center after Boston Properties introduces its paid parking scheme in January. Pick up a bike here, ride to Town Center, leave the bike at a dock there, and pick up another to ride home!

One serious obstacle to any widespread use of this ingenious program, which began decades ago in Europe, is the shortage of safe places to ride bicycles in Reston and Fairfax County in general. Unlike much of Europe, where traffic laws embrace a role for bicycles and designated lanes are everywhere, in Reston only a precious few roadways are safe for bicycle travel.

Fairfax County, the owner and operator of BikeShare, is barely beginning to introduce lanes reserved for bikes or even designated shared lanes for bikes and cars. In fact, so far there are only two, on short stretches of Soapstone and Lawyers roads in south Reston. Nor are sidewalks commonplace in Reston. Hopefully, the advent of Metro and now BikeShare will bring growing pressure from residents for safer riding lanes. As Reston grows in the coming years, I hope and expect there will be a greater role for BikeShare and bicycles. But, it will not happen until Fairfax County Supervisors and transportation officials make our roadways and our traffic rules safer for would-be riders, young and old.