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## Committee Denies Cell Tower Application

By Fallon Forbush
The Connection

n Tuesday, Nov. 15, the Hunter Mill District Land Use Committee voted 3-2 to deny an application to build a cellphone tower on Crossfield Elementary School property on Fox Mill Road in Herndon.

The committee, which provides guidance on all land use applications in the district, denied the application by Reston's Milestone Communications because the proposed site was too close to the school's playground. The 138-foot tower would have been located 150 feet away, according to the application.

However, a group of organized and concerned parents have argued that the actual location is closer to 60 feet away from the play area.

Ellice Stern of Reston, John Mansfield of Vienna and Steve Cerny of Reston, who is also the committee's chairman, voted to deny the application.

Jared Wilcox of Reston and Douglas Noble, a Vienna councilmember, voted to approve the application as is.

Thomas Wyland, Jr. of Oak Hill recused himself from the vote since his employer is a parent company of Verizon, which is involved in the project.

"Usually in these situations, we look for a compromise," Stern said during the public hearing. "We were told that the playground could not be moved, which would have been a compromise."

Stern was also concerned about ice forming on the tower.

"If you get a 20-mile-per-hour wind and it blows that nice big piece of ice towards the playground, then where are we?" she said. "It's not worth it."

"We understand that there's sensitivity to the location of the tower and the proximity to the playground after hearing from both the community as well as the land use committee members and we take these comments to heart," says Len Forkas, Jr., the president of Milestone Communications.

He says the problem for more cellphone infrastructure is not going away and that his company will be successful at finding an alternative location on the school's property.

**MILESTONE** has built over 20 towers on the county's school property, according to Forkas.

"Sometimes the first place we



Ellice Stern of Reston makes a motion to deny the application, which carried.



President of Milestone Communications Len Forkas, Jr. watches in the front row as the committee denies his application.

select is not the best location," he says. "Our goal is to always find a solution."

While the committee voted to deny the application, it also recommended that Milestone make a formal application to locate the tower on adjacent Park Authority property within the Fred Crabtree District Park.

Milestone has argued that it tried to apply through the Park Authority years ago, which prompted the Park Authority to respond.

"The Park Authority has no record of an application being made to site a tower at the adjoining Fred Crabtree District Park location," said a letter written to the committee from William Bouie, chairman of the Park Authority.

But Forkas thinks it is a moot point.

"Where the lines that define the ownership of the real estate is less important than understanding the nature of the concern of moving



the tower," he says. "In the end, the message I'm hearing is that people are concerned about its proximity to the play area. If that's the understanding, we're within a very short distance of the park boundary and still would be proximate to the play area. The issue would be the same. It's irrelevant to who owns the real estate."

Randall Griffin, a vocal opponent to the application, has also criticized Milestone and the county school board of not follow-

ing school policy, which requires community meetings to allow for public comment on all proposed telecommunications projects.

"We know how to do this and we've followed the procedures in this application," says Forkas. "We're good at this. The accusation that we didn't follow procedure, we don't concur with that accusation."

Milestone's towers on county school properties has generated more than \$13 million of income over the last 20 years for the school system, says Forkas. The proposed tower would generate approximately \$40,000 of revenue a year for the school system once at least three carriers agree to use the tower, he says.

"This is about money, not anything else," says Griffin, who is a father of a fourth grader who attends the elementary school.

A STATEMENT released by the organized group of concerned parents said the Fairfax County School Board has ignored the outcry from the community to withdraw the application. "It is disturbing to the community that FCPS is allowing this to continue and has put the tower company ahead of its students," the statement read.

Thomas Wilson, the Sully District representative to the county school board attended the public hearing on Tuesday. However, Pat Hynes, the Hunter Mill District representative to the county school board was not present.

Morgan Lewis, who is the mother of a 10-year-old daughter who attends the elementary school, said during the hearing that it was "fascinating" that Hynes had not attended any of the public meetings about the issue or engaged the concerned parents in any conversation.

Though the committee denied the application, it is ultimately the Fairfax County Planning Commission's decision.

"Frank [Frank de la Fe, the Hunter Mill District commissioner on the Fairfax County Planning Commission] wants to know what our recommendation is," says Cerny, the chairman of the committee who also represents Reston.

Ninety-eight percent of the time, Cerny says, the Planning Commission agrees with his committee's decisions.

The Planning Commission, which had a public hearing the following evening—Wednesday, Nov. 16—decided to postpone its decision on the application indefinitely.





## News

# Paying Traffic Tickets with Canned Food Donations?

By Fallon Forbush
The Connection

eston-based company StandUnited is petitioning the Fairfax County Police Department to allow people to pay their parking tickets with canned food donations for one week during the holidays.

So far, the petition has 11 supporters who have signed out its goal of 1,000 supporters

If the county agrees, StandUnited's parent company will match all donations up to \$5,000 in canned food.

The petition reads: "In this season of giving, you have the opportunity to turn each parking ticket into the opportunity for someone to help feed the hungry.

We propose that you designate a week or more during the holiday season when a person can waive one parking ticket fee by donating 10 cans of food at a police station. StandUnited's parent company, Intermarkets, will match all donations up to \$5,000."

StandUnited is an online petition platform that has a right-of-center audience, accord-

ing to Angela Morabito, spokesperson for the company. "We share values of limited government, personal freedom, strong military and trying to build a stronger country," she says.

"A ton of our staff lives locally, so we're doing this in a truly grassroots style," Morabito says. "it's really a word of mouth thing and social media."

Morabito says the company will be sending the petition and signatures to the FCPD shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. StandUnited is leaving the decision up to the county on where the canned donations would go if it agrees to the proposition.

"That's [a decision] that would be made at the chief's office level," says Tawny Wright, a spokesperson for the FCPD. However, she said the FCPD is only responsible for writing the tickets.

"We don't collect the fines or decide how they're going to be closed when it goes to court," she says. "If you get a parking ticket, you have a right to contest it in court."

Parking tickets in the county are paid to the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration, which did not respond to The Connection's inquiries in time for publication.

# Be Part of Children's Connection 2016

uring the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection is a tradition over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.
- Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you

grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever been given? Ever received?

- ♦ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.
  - Poetry or other creative writing.
  - News stories from school newspapers.
- Photos and text about activities or events.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD or flash drive to: Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Short answers (50 to 100 words) to Some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec.

2. The Children's Connection will publish the last week of 2016.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to the paper closest to you:

Reston@connectionnewspapers.com Herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

## COMMENTARY

## Remembering Our Rights

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum State Delegate (D-36)

uring the week following the national presidential election I attended two lectures on George Mason the man. There was no connection between the election and the lecture dates other than coincidence, but for me hearing again the work of George Mason in the formation of our nation was reassuring. The first lecture featured Professor Jeff Broadwater who discussed his book, "George Mason: Forgotten Founder," as part of a lecture series sponsored by the Virginia Historical Society, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and the George Mason University Department of History. Broadwater asserts that although Mason is often omitted today from the small circle of historical figures referred to as the Founding Fathers, his contributions to the basic framework of our government were legion. He wrote the first constitution for Virginia and was an active participant in writing a constitution for the new nation. He included a Declaration of Rights in the Virginia Constitution but went home from Philadelphia without signing the U.S. Constitution because it did not include a statement of the rights of citizens. His firm opposition to a constitution that did not address rights of citizens led to a promise that such a statement called the Bill of Rights patterned after Mason's Declaration of Rights would be added, and they became the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

Broadwater argues that "Mason's recalcitrance was not the act of an isolated dissenter; rather, it emerged from the ideol-

ogy of the American Revolution. Mason's concerns about the abuse of political power went to the essence of the American experience." That experience was the attack on natural rights by a series of acts passed by Parliament. An enumeration of rights in the constitution would protect citizen rights from future abuse by the government as Mason reasoned. Those rights are the same ones that are being looked at by me and others who are apprehensive about the new administration taking over the federal government. Certainly the rhetoric of the campaign would suggest attitudes at odds with our constitutionally protected freedoms. I have as a result increased my annual giving to the Southern Poverty Law Center (www.splcenter.org) that does a superb job of defending our rights from extremists. I have joined the American Civil Liberties Union for the same reason (www.aclu.org). Organizations like these will be major watch dogs in protecting our rights in these uneasy times.

The other lecture I attended the same week was at the Fairfax County Annual History Conference whose theme this year was "Fairfax County's Founding Fathers: The Masons Are Coming." Of course Fairfax County does not have any hesitation in including its native son among the Founding Fathers. Scott Stroh, executive director of Mason's home—Gunston Hall—in Fairfax County, put Mason's contribution in clear focus with his lecture, "George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights and the World Changing Power of One Document." One way to deal with the uncertainties of our time is to remember Mason and our rights and to be thankful for him and them.

# Reston Association Board Votes 5-3 to Raise '17 Assessment to \$692

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

he Reston Association Board of Directors set the 2017 annual assessment at \$692 on Thursday night when it approved its 2017 budget. This is a \$35 increase from the 2016 annual assessment of \$657.

Capital improvement planning contributed to the assessment rate increase.

In the budget that was approved, RA will hire a capital projects director. The new department, which would include two current RA employees who will be reassigned, will be charged with ensuring the association's capital projects are done on time and within budget.

To help offset the cost of hiring the new staff member, the board voted to cut \$120,000 from its pools by reducing hours of operation at RA's least used pools, which was hotly debated at the previous public meeting.

Cate Fulkerson, RA's CEO, said she would review three areas of RA's operating expenses in preparation for planning RA's 2018-19 biannual budget. These areas included:

- RA's retirement benefit plan;
- RA's employee share of health benefits; and
- ❖ renegotiating lease terms for RA's headquarters.

Fulkerson also said she would be considering grant writing to bring in non-assessment revenue. She would also begin a study of the assessment formula so that the staff and board could consider adopting alternatives to the flat rate for all members.

Those voting in favor of the new assessment were:

Danielle Larosa, Treasurer; Ellen Graves, President; Eve Thompson, Secretary; Julie Bitzer, South Lakes District Director; and Michael Sanio, Vice President.

Those opposed to the new assessment were:

Lucinda Shannon, Hunters Woods/Dogwood District Director; Ray Wedell, At-Large Director; and Sherri Herbert, Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District Director.

Jeff Thomas, at large-director, was not present for the vote.



## **OPINION**

## Celebrate, Shop, Dine Locally

## Every day can be "small business day."

here is a joy to participating in community traditions and celebrations during the holidays, from walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to shopping in local stores, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

### EDITORIAL

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the

area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 26.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will shop online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to do some celebrating, shopping and dining locally. We promise it brings more joy.

Be sure to go to some of the hometown Christmas events coming up. Visit our holiday calendars to find more.

— Mary Kimm

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

### Go Local

## Attend some hometown holiday

❖ VIENNA: Santa Claus is Coming to Freeman Store Historic Vienna. Good old St. Nick will visit the Freeman Store on Sunday, Dec. 4, and again on Sunday, Dec. 11, from noon to 2 p.m. each day. Bring your children and bring your own camera to

### Where to Give Locally

Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.
Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Sign up by Nov. 17 for Gifts for Kids, Alacia Earley at 571-323-9568 or alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org.

#### Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet

distributed over 5,500 winter coats and jackets last winter, plus over 4,000 hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to individuals and families in need of winter gear. Bring coat donations to the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190 through Feb. 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 for more information. Visit www.shareofmclean.org for more info
- Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon,

703-391-0105 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. 703-437-1776 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
- ❖ 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.
- Touching Heart in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.

capture the moment.

- ❖ VIENNA: Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. From mid-November until just after New Year's Day, the 100-acre site is transformed into an animated lighted fairyland of scenes and vignettes. Roasting marshmallows, hot chocolate, and a snowflake shop round out the spectacle. The Winter Walk of Lights is open every day through Jan. 8, 2017, 5:30-10 p.m. Open Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, too. To buy timed tickets online, go to www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walkof-lights
- www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walkof-lights
   VIENNA: Church Street Holiday Stroll Church Street Holiday Stroll, Monday, Nov. 28, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Historic Church Street closes down for the evening as the area between Vienna Presbyterian Church and Center Street is ablaze with sparkling lights, a visit from Santa, a petting zoo, firepits for marshmallow roasting, live entertainment, and shopping. Santa arrives at 6:15 p.m. on an antique fire engine; at 6:20 p.m., Santa and Mayor Laurie DiRocco light the tree. After the tree-lighting, Santa takes his seat to hear the wish-list of children who come to him. Local schools and choral groups sing seasonal music throughout the evening. The Vienna Community Band performs on the Showmobile Stage. Historic properties, including the train depot, Freeman Store, Little Library, and caboose, will be open. Church Street will be closed to vehicular traffic beginning at 5 p.m. For more information,
- McLEAN: On Sunday, Dec. 4, the eighth annual WinterFest parade in McLean will welcome in the

contact Historic Vienna, Inc. at 703-938-5187.

holidays as fun and fancy participants proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road. Pre-parade entertainment begins at 2:30 p.m. The parade steps off promptly at 3:30 p.m.

♦ GREAT FALLS: Celebration of Lights, Great Falls
Village Centre Hill, Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 - 6:30 p.m.
Celebrate the beginning of the season with our
Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Drink hot cider or
cocoa next to the fire as you listen to local children's
choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo
and pony rides will keep the children busy until Mr.
and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck.
http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/celebration-of-

http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/celebration-of-lights/

- ❖ RESTON: Friday, Nov. 25, 26th Annual Reston Holiday Parade. 11 a.m. with Macy's-style balloons, musicians, dancers, antique cars, characters, community groups, dignitaries, special guest emcees, more. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Reston Holiday Parade on Market Street, tree lighting at Fountain Square. Rain or shine. https://www.restontowncenter.com/
- Visits and photos with Santa and 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.

Conservatory Ballet Performance 5 p.m. Fountain Square Reston Town Center 11900 Market St.The Nutcracker's Land of the Snow dance will be

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## **OPINION**

# One of Fairfax County's Greatest Assets Is Our Diversity

## We welcome and celebrate one another's differences and cultural backgrounds.

By Sharon Bulova Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ne of Fairfax County's greatest assets is our diversity. We are and will continue to be a County that exemplifies values of respect and acceptance, where we welcome and celebrate one another's differences and cultural backgrounds. Our diversity makes our community strong and vibrant, and I am proud of what every resident has to offer.

Immigration is a federal matter. Fairfax County partners with federal authorities on immigration issues when required. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office piloted the Secure Communities program under a partnership with U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2009, and has continued this partnership through the Priority Enforcement Program, where individuals who commit serious crimes and are in this country illegally are turned over to the Department of Homeland Security for deportation. Just being here without documentation is not considered a serious crime by DHS.

Fairfax County fully complies with federal and state laws requiring the County to ensure that people benefiting from public services are here legally. These federal and state laws are very clear about benefits that can only be provided to residents who are in this country legally. Such benefits include voting in elections, welfare, food stamps, and affordable housing. Many nonprofit and faith-based charitable organizations do serve Fairfax County residents who are in need regardless of their immigration status

Lastly, Fairfax County complies with the federally mandated requirement that we educate all children, despite immigration status. The United States Supreme Court

ruled in *Plyler v. Doe (1982)* that the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits denying a free public education to immigrant children based on their or their parents' legal status.

Our local police officers work hard every day to keep our residents safe and build trust with the community. We believe in community policing where residents are not afraid to call law enforcement if their safety is at risk or to report information critical to resolving an investigation. We do not ask, nor do we have the resources for, our police officers to become immigration officials. Any immigration efforts on the local level above and beyond our current cooperation with ICE would compete with police officers' responsibility for community policing and law enforcement.

Additional immigration efforts would also compete with fiscal resources against other county programs. While we always support maintaining safe communities, we will also not risk our core values of respect for all people and community policing.

Fairfax County has spent the past two years developing and implementing very thoughtful recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission to increase police transparency, modify use of force policies, and improve communication between our police department and the residents they serve. The Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee has also been hard at work for two years encouraging community dialogue and building relationships between public safety and residents.

Be assured, I will be vigilant to any future policy changes that could negatively affect our community and all the progress we have made. Our diversity makes our community great. We will continue to be a community that is inclusive and respectful to all people, because that is the lifeblood of Fairfax County.

#### EDITORIAL

From Page 6

performed by Conservatory Ballet Repertoire des Etoiles in front of the huge Christmas tree.

Tree Lighting and Sing-Along 6 p.m., Fountain Square Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. See Santa and Mrs. Claus light up the Christmas tree, followed by a holiday sing-along with The Reston Chorale.

- Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides, 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.
- RESTON: Jingle on Lake Anne will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3. Santa arrives by boat. Music. Market. Activities. http://lakeanneplaza.com/ event/jingle-on-lake-anne/
- \* HERNDON: 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 Sunday Dec. 4 from 10 4 p.m. Storybook Holiday Celebration 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.
- HERNDON: Holiday Homes Tour, a timehonored tradition that kicks off the holiday season and allows the public the opportunity to visit local homes decorated for the holidays. Homes on the tour are selected for their historic, architectural or community interest.
- The 2016 tour will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. 4 p.m. www.facebook.com/holidayhomestour.
- CENTREVILLE: Bull Run Festival of Lights and Holiday Village Nov. 23, 2016 - Jan. 8, 2017 7700 Bull Run Dr. Centreville. A 2.5 mile stretch will be illuminated by holiday light displays. The cost of driving through the light show is Monday - Thursday, \$15 per car; Friday - Sunday & Holidays, \$20 per car.



### PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATES AND PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges and the 2017 Annual Budget. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2017, include the following:

- 1. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$10,240 to \$16,020.
- 2. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,150 to \$1,240 to
- 3. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$10.10 to \$12.20 f.
- An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.68 to \$2.81 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- 5. A decrease in the Turn-Off / Turn-On Charge from \$52 to \$44.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
- 7. An increase in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 104% to 105%.
- 8. A decrease in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$46 to \$35.

Revenues are expected to be \$171.3 million in 2017. Water sales are expected to provide \$149.2 million. Approximately \$22.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	- \$1,000s -	
	2016	2017
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 53,877	\$ 55,808
Power and Utilities	10.417	10,572
Chemicals	6.342	7.566
Purchased Water	4,512	5,576
Supplies and Materials	5,173	5,248
Insurance	1,176	1,201
Fuel	567	625
Postage	632	654
Contractual Services	10,473	10,671
Professional Services	748	910
Other _	2,305	2,484
Subtotal	96,222	101,315
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,616)	(9.305)
Total	\$ 86,606	\$ 92,010

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$41,129,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$25,733,000

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at <a href="https://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates">www.fairfaxwater.org/rates</a>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

## **SPORTS**

## Seahawks Advance to Region Semifinals

South Lakes (11-1) to face Lake Braddock (11-1), the top-ranked team in the state.

By Chris Colston

n a night replete with big plays and swinging emotion, the Virginia 6A North region quarterfinal showdown between South Lakes and Centreville ultimately came down to a two-point conversion.

With less than two minutes to play, it appeared the Seahawks had made an improbable comeback to advance to the region semifinals. After falling behind 14-0, they had scored three unanswered touchdowns. But the Wildcats pulled off a miraculous 75-yard flea-flicker bomb for a score with 1:25 remaining, stunning South Lakes and pulling Centreville to within 22-20.

For the potential game-tying two-point conversion, Wildcats Coach Chris Haddock dialed up more razzle-dazzle. After a delay-of-game penalty pushed the ball back to the seven-yard-line, senior quarterback Jameel Siler pretended to call an audible



Photo by Dion Seneca

Albert Mensah with ball, quarterback Devin Miles, and Spencer Alston.

to his offensive line. Meanwhile, senior running back Julian Garrett took the direct snap from center, ran left, then tossed the ball to senior Rafael Walker, sprinting right. Siler released and broke free in the right corner of the end zone; Walker lofted what appeared to be an accurate pass. But he put a little too much air under it, allowing Seahawks senior defender Sky Lubreski to

scramble backward and make a leaping interception just in front of Siler.

"They caught us a little off guard, direct snapping it to the running back," Lubreski said. "I was about to bite on the play, but when I saw the passer coming around to my side, I remembered we had gone over that in practice, and I was supposed to stay with the (quarterback) if he released. I did

my job, I let everyone else do their jobs, and it worked out in the end."

Even after Lubreski's game-saving play, it wasn't over. Everybody knew an onside kick was coming, and it was up to South Lakes to recover it. Junior Chris Ezidinma did just that, allowing Coach Trey Taylor to run out the clock and seal the 22-20 win.

**THE SEAHAWKS** (11-1) now advance to the 6A North region semifinals against Lake Braddock (11-1), which crushed Hayfield 42-0 Friday. The Bruins, featuring University of Virginia-bound running back Lamont Atkins, entered Friday's game as the topranked team in the state according to VHSL-Reference.com. Their only loss of the season was to Centreville, 8-7 on September 30.

"To go from 2-8 my sophomore year to the Region semifinals as a senior is just awesome," senior lineman David Kroll said. "I think I'm more tired from jumping around and celebrating than I was from actually playing the game."

Centreville's 75-yard flea-flicker underlined a key decision Coach Taylor had faced on the possession prior. After Coach Haddock called his last timeout with 2:46 to play, the Seahawks faced a third-and-four at the Wildcats' 10-yard line. South Lakes

SEE SEAHAWKS, PAGE 9



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## **SPORTS**

## Seahawks

From Page 8

quarterback Devin Miles used a hard count to draw an offside penalty, giving the Seahawks first-andgoal from the Centreville five-yard line. At that point, they could have taken a knee four times, running off most of the clock, and forcing the Wildcats to drive the length of the field to score. Instead, junior running back Albert Mensah rumbled into the end zone on first down with 1:42 to play, putting South Lakes up 22-14—but giving Centreville plenty of time to an-

"We couldn't have run the clock all the way down, and I didn't want to give (Centreville) a chance to win the game (in regulation)," Coach Taylor said. "We contemplated it. It's a tough call down there."

After Mensah scored, the Wildcats took over at their 25-yard line with 1:37 remaining, and Haddock wasted little time going for it. On first down, sophomore quarterback Presley Egbers threw the long downfield to senior Deonte Edmonds. Two Seahawks defenders went up with Edmonds for the jump ball at the South Lakes 37yard line, but Edmonds came down with it as both defenders fell to the ground. He then sprinted the remaining 23 yards for a 75yard touchdown, setting up the dramatic two-point conversion try.

"Two years ago we would have hung our heads after giving up that long touchdown late," Coach Taylor said. "But the kids just keep grinding. That's something we've tried to instill in them, and it's good to see it translate on the field. We tell them that if you never give up, you always have a chance."

Well into the second half, it seemed as though the Seahawks' season was over. Garrett's 65-yard touchdown run had put Centreville up 14-0 with eight minutes left in the third quarter, and the Wildcats' ball-control wing-T attack controlled the clock and put the pressure on South Lakes to maximize its opportuni-

"I'm sure part of their game plan was to go slow, eat clock, and keep our offense off the field," Coach Taylor said.

Early on, it worked; The the first half, and they simply weren't going to have many more chances to score.

In the third quarter, Coach Taylor decided to keep it simple by neutralizing Centreville's defensive speed and ramming Mensah

up the middle. He carried seven consecutive times to start South Lakes' first scoring drive, which culminated in a 12-yard play-action touchdown pass to junior running back Spencer Alston with 2:22 to play in the third.

"At halftime, I just decided we needed to run up the middle and pound Albert," Coach Taylor said. "(The Wildcats) were doing a good job of tackling us from behind. Rather than going sideways, we needed to go right at them."

Can you blame Coach Taylor for riding Mensah? In consecutive weeks, The Washington Post named him the Northern Virginia Player of the Week for his play against Fairfax and Oakton.

The Seahawks pulled to within 14-9 after the Centreville quarterback was called for intentional grounding on first-and-10 from its own 10-yard line. Officials ruled he was in the end zone when he threw, resulting in a safety. South Lakes then took the lead on its ensuing drive, one that was kept alive when the Wildcats were called for roughing the passer on second-and-24. A quick slant to senior receiver Andrew Funaki on third-and-seven for 17 yards gave South Lakes a crucial first down. and then the Seahawks went to the play-action again. Miles heaved the ball into the end zone, where Alston out-leaped two Centreville defenders for an amazing highlight-reel 30-yard touchdown catch. Up 15-14 with 7:09 left in the game, Coach Taylor elected to go for two, but Miles' pass was incomplete.

On their next series, the Wildcats converted a third-and-nine when Egbers found Siler deep downfield, setting up first-and-10 from the South Lakes 43-yard line. But on the next play junior defensive back Dave Hagengingma recovered a Centreville fumble, killing the drive and setting up Mensah's late score.

**SOUTH LAKES**, ranked No. 11 in the Washington Post All-Met Top 20, had 17 first downs to 11 for Centreville, and converted six of 10 third-downs. The Seahawks got a great effort from junior punter Evan Matthes, who bombed a 53-yarder and placed three others deep in Centreville Seahawks had just one possession territory. Funaki finished with in the first quarter and just four in seven catches for 126 yards, Mensah carried 20 times for 74 yards, receiver Noah Seneca caught four passes for 43 yards, while Alston carried 10 times for 33 yards and added four catches for 40 yards.

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## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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

#### **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 nonperishable 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

Mini-Train Rides 12 - 4 p.m. November 27 through December 18 Departures on Market Street next to Talbots 11900 Market Street, Reston Town Center. Enjoy train rides through Reston Town Center every Sunday through December 18. Donations accepted - all proceeds benefit local charities. restontowncenter.com/holidays

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.

#### **Teen and Adult Art Classes**

ArtSpace Herndon Every Monday from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. Drawing and Mixed Media with Melanie Stanley - During Fall and Winter of 2016. Cost: \$45/ class. The class will use a variety of techniques for drawing, painting, mark making, and collage using fine arts tools and materials. Students will be taken down a creative path to learn to use drawing tools and brushes more effectively. Register by emailing Melanie, and she will send you the supply list and payment options/information: ridingfree2@gmail.com. 703-956-9560. www.artspaceherndon.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
Unforgettable Photography

**Exhibit Artspace Herndon** Featuring the photography of Marti Belcher November 2 - December 4. 750 Center Street, Herndon. Life is a journey, a continuum of everyday



**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'sstyle 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. Reston Holiday Parade on Market Street, tree lighting at Fountain Square. Rain or shine.

events and ordinary people, all of which make for an extraordinary lifetime of experiences. 703-956-9560. www.artspaceherndon.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. Takes palce 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 Mr. Knick Knack. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays through October. Reston Town Center Pavilion, Unique, heartcentered music for kids and their grown-ups. Free.

restontowncenter.com. 703-579-6720

#### 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

**Herndon Regional Wind 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

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 ablowen@gmail.com for more information.

#### Senior Tea ARTSPACE Herndon

10:30 - 12 p.m. Every month seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea on the second Friday of the month, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. All teas are free and open to the public. http://www.artspaceherndon.com/ events-2/senior-tea/

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 pm. Share the ice with Scooby-Doo, Cat in the Hat and more. 703-709-6300 skating@restontowncenter.com restontowncenter.com/skating

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

#### 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. Reservations: 703-925-8250

opentable.com/tavern-64

#### 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:// www.restontowncenter.com/

#### Gingerbread Man Mile Race for

Kids 8 a.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. Children's fun-run to benefit a children's charity Presented by Potomac River Running. Register at prraces.com/gingerbread

#### 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.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 26

#### **Bluegrass Concert Holy Cross**

**Lutheran Church** 7:30 p.m. 1090 Sterling Road (one block off Elden Street) Herndon. Two of the legendary players of bluegrass music together as a duo. Jimmy is a world class mandolin player and Orrin is an award winning guitar flat-picker. Both can sing and their vocal blend is something to behold. Great comics too so if you're not clapping you're laughing. Admission: \$15 children 12 and younger admitted free.

The Nutcracker 7:30 pm at the Ernst SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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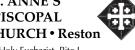
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5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service Nursery care provided at 9:00 a.m. service

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## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

From Page 10

Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Annandale. Classical Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker includes all of the stunning costumes, dancing, and enchantment necessary to bring Clara's dream to life, and it celebrates some of the most beautiful choreography and professional and pre-professional talent in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Tickets: \$ 25 http:// www.northernvirginiamag.com/ nutcracker/

#### SAT/NOV. 26 SUN/NOV. 27

Movies and Mimosas - The Wizard of Oz Reston Town Center 11 am, Bow Tie Cinemas. See the

classics how they were meant to be seen - on the big screen. Tickets: \$5.50 (\$1 off to loyalty members). 703.318.1801 bowtiecinemas.com

#### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

An Evening with Mark Twain 7

p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. To celebrate Mark Twain's birthday the historical re-enactor Mike Hall will bring Twain to life comparing his time with life today. Register at  $www.fair \bar{f} ax county.gov/library.\\$ Adults, teens, older children.

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Jingle On Lake Anne Warm

merriment and holiday cheer will set the stage when Lake Anne hosts their annual family friendly holiday event.

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 PM Farmers & Craft Market

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 PM Gifts from the Heart: Shopping Event and Reception 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 PM Cookie

Decorating/Crafts/Beer Garden/ Mulled Wine/Plaza Activities 12:00 p.m. - Santa Arrives - by Barge. Noon – 2:00 PM Pictures with Santa 6:30 p.m. Tree Lighting and Caroling

#### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 2-3

**Reston Lions Club Annual Citrus** 

Sale. Friday, 2-5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, 11401 North Shore Drive, Reston. Fresh navel oranges, pink grapefruit, tangelos, and mandarins will be available. All proceeds benefit sight and hearing programs and other club charities. Eveglasses and hearing aids accepted at sales site for recycling. Kathy Gold, 703-282-4078.

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 4

 $\textbf{Holiday Arts and Crafts Show}. \ 10$ 

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. **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/

### Plan Ahead Reston & Herndon

#### TUESDAY/DEC. 6

Cookies with Santa 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Please register for a 30 minute increment. Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave. Reston. \$12 RA Members, \$16 non-members. Be here when Santa makes his first stop to Reston. Bring the little ones for a personal visit with Santa and a photo.

Warm up with hot chocolate and cookies, and kick off the holiday season with festive crafts, activities and a take home treat. Registration is required. Must cancel 72 hours in advance to receive a refund. Contact Kelsey at 703-435-7995 or Kelsey@reston.org

Reston Chorale's annual Messiah

**Sing-Along** 7:30 pm at St. John Neumann Catholic Church (Chapel), 11900 Lawvers Road, Reston, This treasured holiday tradition also benefits Cornerstones' Coat Closet. Bring a new or gently used coat - or new hat, gloves, socks or scarf - and receive \$5 off the price of admission. Tickets and information at www.RestonChorale.org

#### FRIDAY/DEC. 9

**Free Holiday Choral Concert United Christian Parish** 11508 N Shore Drive, Reston. The program, conducted by David Lang, will

feature holiday and seasonal pieces including, And the Glory of the Lord, Irving Berlin's Christmas, Shepherds Pipe Carol, and others. http:// encorecreativity.org, 301-261-5747 or email info@encorecreativity.org.

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 17.

A Storybrook 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.



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Wednesday, December 21st - Holiday Open House - 1-3 PM

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## The Children's

2016

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

#### Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The edition has won many awards.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens, or other creative

To submit material, identify each piece of writ- ing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 16.

Publishing December 28





**NNECTION** 

Entertainment &

Children's Edition

Advertising Due.....Dec. 1

Advertising Due.....Dec. 15

Children's Edition

Advertising Due.....Dec. 16

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## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

## Gifts from the HeART to Benefit Cornerstones

eston Community Center invites the public to the 18th Annual Gifts from the HeART Exhibit and Holiday Gift Shopping Event. The giftshopping event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The event is presented in conjunction with the Gifts from the HeART exhibit on display at RCC Lake Anne through Dec. 31, 2016; the 3D exhibit will remain on display through Feb. 21. Artist entry fees and 10 percent of all sales will be donated to Cornerstones. The exhibit showcases original works of art in a variety of media - including oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, stained glass, ceramic, sculpture and mixed media – at various price points.

The event coincides with Jingle on Lake Anne from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the same day. That event features children's crafts, cookie decorating, a farmer's and craft market, beer garden, carolers, tree lighting and Santa's arrival by barge at noon.

"Our Gifts from the HeART exhibit brings artists and community members together for a wonder-



The gift-shopping event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ful cause," said Cheri Danaher, RCC's Arts Education Director. "Through this event, everyone involved can enjoy fantastic works of art, celebrate the holidays and support those in need in our area." Proceeds will help Cornerstones continue the important work of the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, the Laurel Learning Center and their Community Services Outreach, which includes job counseling, emergency food and youth programs. Since the annual exhibit was first held in 1999, Gifts from the HeART has raised approximately \$11,000 for Corner-

For more information visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com

## Thematic Show at GRACE

reater Reston Arts Center is presenting a thematic show of extraordinary works by six visual artists who are exploring spirituality, modern life, and ecological concerns through a variety of delicate and precisely crafted paper-cut pieces. The exhibition will provide a rich example of the endless possibilities derived from a medium as versatile as paper and will feature site-specific installations, quirky mix-media collages, humorous animations, scientific illustrations, and transformative sculpture. Featured artists are Ed Bisese, Maëlle Doliveux, Bhavna Mehta, Beverly Ress, Leslie Shellow, and Eric Standley.

CUT is the final exhibition in a trilogy of shows organized by the Greater Reston Arts Center examining labor-intensive, hand-manipulated, contemporary artworks made from humble materials traditionally associated with domestic craft. The exhibit runs from Dec. 9 through Feb. 18, 2017. The 2014 exhibition STITCH presented surprising manifestations of needlework in combination with painting, sculpture, photography, and video. The 2015 exhibition BEAD featured works ranging from jewelry that mimics natural forms or incorporated live ammunition, to sculptural assemblages created from materials including hand-blown glass, animal skulls, and re-purposed mops, to two- and three-dimensional works exploring heady themes including identity, gender, race, and nature. CUT will link the long history of paper cutting as an art form connecting various customs that have evolved uniquely all over the world reflecting the traditions, folklore, and practices of society. Professional contemporary artists working with cut paper or stencils sometimes deliberately engage the history of their medium, but often, as will be reflected in this exhibition, they employ new techniques with scissors, x-acto knives, and laser-cutting machines to generate line, form, texture, and movement.



Bhavna Mehta, Modern Woman #8, Lokta paper and mounted on Stonehenge paper.

The opening reception for CUT will be held on Friday, Dec. 9, 6 - 8 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center will be open for visitors Tuesday - Saturday from 11 a..m – 5 p.m. Dec. 9, 2016 through Feb. 18, 2017. Except Dec. 23 - Jan. 2, 2017.

For more information visit restonarts.org or contact info@restonarts.org or 703-471-9242.



ONNECTION

703-778-9431

## **FAITH**

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

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. during the summer. Nursery and childcare are provided starting at 8 a.m. until the end of the service. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center,** Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7:30-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12 or \$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

**St. Anne's Episcopal Church**, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. during the summer. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-reston.org.

**Washington Plaza Baptist Church** will hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

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

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute

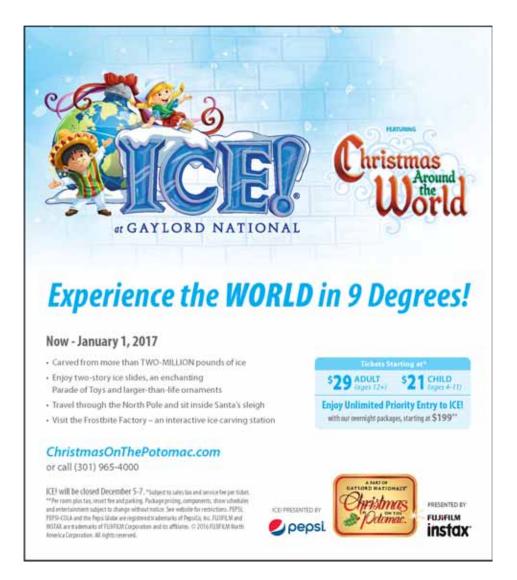
offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community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

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

Hope Fellowship Church will temporarily be meeting at Hyatt Place, 21481 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling. Sunday worship services are Sundays at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., a Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and a weekly prayer conference call is Thursdays at 9 p.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org.

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

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



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## **TFTT: Turkey** For the Turkey

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Thanksgiving might be my most favorite day of the year. It is a day when I can eat/feel most normal. (Cancer issues notwithstanding.) To assure that this day would indeed satiate my savage beast, I changed/rearranged my chemotherapy infusion interval so the feast would not occur on the first Thursday following my previous Friday infusion but rather 13 days hence — on the second Thursday. This will, if my most recent pattern follows going on for nearly two years now, enable me to eat/have no eating issues (other than the many non-cancer related ones I've had/maintained my entire life) whatsoever relating to my chemotherapy and enjoy the day — and night without any challenges other than buckling my belt.

Not that I look the least bit undernourished, but I don't eat like a normal adult either. Heck, I don't eat like a normal child and I'm not referring to whether I eat using silverware — which I do, or hold silverware more like an "entrenching tool" ("Firesign Theatre") which I don't. If I had my druthers I'd order off the children's menu. That's not to say I'd be properly-mannered sitting at a Downton Abbey dinner, but at least I'd know enough to select my silverware from the outside-in and likely not embarrass myself in the process; that is until I return every portion back to the kitchen untouched. And therein lies my problem.

I don't like anything. I eat the same things over and over again. I don't view this as a problem, more like a continuing opportunity. To say, as I often do, that I eat 10 things, might be hard to digest, but not for me. In addition to not eating much variety, I won't try anything, and if I am compelled to do so, won't do so in front of anybody, that's for sure. If I don't like the food's appearance, texture, color, smell, description, lineage, heritage, place of origin, birthplace, where it's been, with whom it's been, even its name and general unfamiliarity, I won't touch it "with a 10-foot Pole. Stretch Polansky, tallest Pole I ever saw," (to quote Hawkeye Pierce from a long-ago M\*A\*S\*H episode).

Not that this juvenile behavior has stunted my girth. Hardly. But it has narrowed my "confinement beam" ("Star Trek") so to speak. I eat a lot of very little. Thanksgiving however, is the lot of which I eat. Not so much the desserts, which are usually a variety of pies and such which generally don't interest me (and besides, unlike the turkey, I'm stuffed after the meal) but the main course: white meat turkey, potatoes, "stuffing/filling/dressing", gravy (nowadays), vegetables, hot rolls and even cranberry sauce. If there's anything I'm leaving off my plate, it's probably not on my short list. And when it comes to my eating habits/choices, as you've presumably come to read, it's an extremely short list.

Fortunately, for me and my peculiarities, we have almost always spent Thanksgiving at family or friends; all of whom are extraordinarily capable in the kitchen and given our close association over the years, wellacquainted with and somewhat amused by my food issues. Never more so than when my wife, Dina's cousin, Gary makes a big production of pouring himself a glass of milk at the table. Nevertheless, I've always felt a welcome addition and never uncomfortable (although sometimes I've eaten at the children's table).

I wouldn't say I'm counting the days until Thanksgiving; I already did that weeks ago when I made the decision to change my pre-Thanksgiving infusion date to Nov. 11th from 18th, but I'm certainly monitoring th calendar very closely. My oncologist regularly encourages me to find quality in my life. Thanksgiving is quality — and quantity — I value in my life, and I'm damn lucky to still

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

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Runners at the start of The Herndon Turkey Trot 5K race at the Herndon Community Center on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016.



The first-place winner was James Luehrs, 23, of Reston, who finished with a time of 16:16.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

## Herndon Turkey Trot Race a Success

Some 858 runners participate in pre-Thanksgiving tradition at Herndon Community Center.

espite the chilly and blustery weather, some 858 runners participated in The Turkey Trot 5K Race sponsored by the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Herndon Community Center. The race wound around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course.

"This is a traditional family-friendly, community race. We're happy to organize this race with the help of our sponsors in the

community for a wonderful pre-Thanksgiving tradition," said Cynthia Hoftiezer, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation with the Town of Herndon.

The first-place male winner was James Luehrs, 23, of Reston, who finished with a time of 16:16. He is Herndon High School's cross country and distance track coach. The first-place female was Julie Hayden with a time of 21:52. The first-place winners, both male and female, won a turkey for each age group. The second-place winners won pumpkin pies. The overall winners, male and female, won a turkey, pumpkin pie, all the fixings, and a gift certificate for running shoes. Participants donated cans of food to benefit the food bank charity LINK. The following age groups participated: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 & over.

— Steve Hibbard



Runners race along the path of The **Herndon Turkey Trot 5K in front of** the Herndon Community Center and the Herndon Centennial Golf Course on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/ Calendar/ by noon on Friday.

BULLETIN BOARD -

#### **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, or send an email to 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 and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

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 . Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/

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 and click on Volunteer Solutions

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they порри or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels urgently

needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/ Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

**Habitat Heroes Project**. The fourth Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. - noon. Join the Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests from aggressive plants and restoring them to their natural state.

Wear long sleeves, long pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A. will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water.

To volunteer and find more information, contact habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

ARTSPACE HERNDON - ArtSpace Herndon needs volunteer docents to greet guests, answer the phone and complete sales during normal gallery hours.

Volunteers are also needed a few hours each month to assist with exhibit installation and provided.

Flexible shifts are available. For additional information see our website www.artspaceherndon.com. Or contact us at 703-956-9560

volunteer@artspaceherndon.com. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon, VA.

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Dinosaur lanterns are also on display at the festival.

## Wild' Chinese Lantern Festival Illuminates NoVa

By Fallon Forbush
The Connection

ver 800 hand-made lanterns have been shipped from southern China to northern Virginia for the Chinese Lantern Festival at Roer's Zoofari, the old Reston Zoo, in Vienna.

All the lanterns in the festival are life-sized or oversized animals that stand at heights as tall as 55 feet, says George Zhao, spokesperson for the festival.

His favorite part of the festival, which is themed "The Wild," are the cheetahs.

"I really like the emotion on their faces and the details that our artists have paid attention to," he says.

In total, 50 artists put the lanterns together over the course of a month before they were shipped and assembled by a team of 18 people on site, Zhao says.

While there are 12 main steps in the entire design process— like assembling the three-dimensional shapes out of wire, stringing the light bulbs and stretching various colors of satin fabric over the framework— he says the most important part of the lantern design process is when the chief artist paints on the finishing details, like the animal's eyes and face.

Viewers can expect anything but the traditional lantern.

While most are made of satin, there are a few thro mixed-material lanterns that are unordinary. For example, there is one exhibit that features elephants Day.

made of ceramic plates, wine cups, spoons and rice bowls.

"The elephants also spray water out of their trunks," Zhao says.

There is also a peacock exhibit near the safari's goat pens that has lanterns that are made of thousands of glass bottles that are filled with dyed liquids.

The Chinese Lantern Festival is traditionally held on Jan. 15 where people celebrate by eating sweet rice dumplings, watch performances and create arts and crafts, says Zhao.

Starting this week, the festival will provide two 30-minute martial art performances and demonstrations of Thai Chi.

"After the performances, we're going to bring onto the stage some kids who are interested in learning and teach them how to practice kung fu in groups," Zhao says. "The performers will teach them how to do the movements and set the poses."

There will also be food trucks on site from nearby restaurants selling various types of cuisine.

Zhao immigrated to Canada from China in 1999 to work on cultural exchange programs. Now his company travels throughout the United States bringing the Chinese Lantern Festival to different venues.

"I hope people can get a better understanding of the Chinese Lantern culture," he says.

The festival will be open weekly Wednesday through Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. in November and daily in December until its last evening on New Year's

Father Tim Greten pulls his son Zac, 1(left), daughter Ana, 3 (right) and their preschool friend Melanie Wall, 3 (middle) through the Zoofari in a wagon. Moms Erin Greten and Megan Wall were also enjoying the lanterns.





A floating exhibit of sea life, including giant jellyfish, glow from the center of the pond in the middle of the zoofari.



Panda lanterns frolic amidst glowing bamboo.



Oak View Elementary School Student Hannah Surridge, 7, of Fairfax walks into an exhibit with life-size Crane lanterns.