# HomeLifeStyle

Page 9

New parking signs provide payment information for those who park along the street of the shopping center.

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JANUARY 11-17, 2017



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# News On a Collision Course

Reston Association disagrees with County over planned road affecting the Hidden Creek Country Club's golf course.

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

he Reston Association adopted a resolution that opposes a new road the county has planned north of the Wiehle-Reston East metrorail station out of concern that it runs right through the Hidden Creek Country Club's golf course.

"For those of us paying attention, [the road] stood out like a sore thumb," says Connie Hartke, president of Rescue Reston, an organization that opposes redevelopment of the Reston National Golf Course, the other golf course located in Reston.

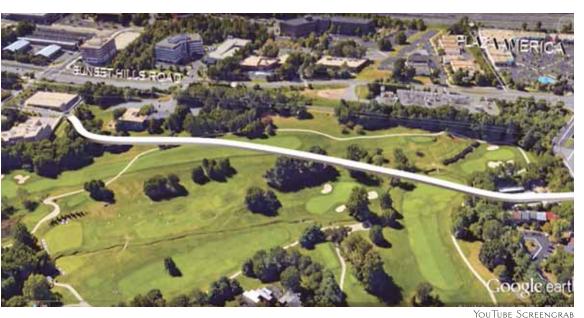
The plan laying out the road, the Reston Master Plan Special Study, was amended and adopted by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on June 2, 2015. The study

began in 2009 to include changes into the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, which would guide the redevelopment of Reston. This included areas around the new Reston Silver line metro rail stations, the Dulles Toll Road and other residential neighborhoods and commercial areas.

The plan calls for the county to construct roadway network improvements that would provide alternative routes for traffic to drive around transit station areas and reduce congestion.

The connection being challenged in the plan is a new road that would bridge American Dream Way and Isaac Newton Square just north of the Wiehle-Reston East station. However, portions of the Hidden Creek Country Club's 18-hole golf course sit in between the two roads— American Dream Way to its west and Isaac Newton Square to its east.

"I hope that any property owner has



On Dec. 15, Reston Association Land Use Attorney John McBride presented this rendering of the proposed location of a road that would connect American Dream Way and Isaac Newton Square, which would adversely impact the Hidden Creek golf course.

learned that Reston stands unified about its green, recreational space," says Hartke.

**THE RA RESOLUTION** states that Reston has been a golf course community since its inception in 1961 and that the Hidden Creek and Reston National golf courses are an essential element

of Reston because of their integration into Reston's natural open space areas and because of

the active recreational opportunities they provide.

The disruption to the golf course seems to be a mistake, especially given that a provision listed in the plan backs the community's desire to preserve its golf courses.

"The Reston National and Hidden Creek Country Club golf courses are planned for private recreation use, more specifically to remain as golf courses," the provision reads. Also, the road is not mapped out to interfere with the course. Still, the RA does not think the road is possible without running directly into the course.

"The plan shows that connection as swinging down, not impacting the golf landuse ... basically running parallel to the W&OD [Washington & Old Dominion Trail]," Reston Association Land Use Attorney John McBride said during a presentation at an RA Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 15. "Anyone that's walked along there or seen that knows that really can't be done. There's no way you can make that connection without disturbing three holes of that golf course."

The resolution concludes by saying the RA does not support any future grid of streets road connection between American Dream Way and Isaac Newton Square, because it will adversely impact the Hidden Creek golf course. "We just want to make sure it's out in the open that there is a discrepancy," Larry Butler, the RA's senior director of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources.

The RA was engaged in the process for the plan, but Butler does not recall ever attending a meeting where the road connection issue was discussed.

"The board wanted to essentially make a statement that we want to keep the golf courses in Reston because we think they're important and that this recommendation in the comprehensive plan flies in the face of that because the road cannot be constructed without impacting the course," says Butler.

But the implementation of all elements of the plan are not guaranteed. The grid of streets will be constructed as developments are approved by the county.

 "It's not an implementation plan, it's a conceptual plan," says Tom
Biesiadny, director of the Fairfax
County Department of Transportation. "All of the implementation pieces have to be worked out as
individual development cases to move for-

ward." And the golf course has not submitted any proposals for redevelopment, according to Biesiadny. Neither the golf course nor its parent company responded to inquiries from the Connection.

**RESIDENTS OF RESTON** who are concerned about the golf course can rest assured knowing the course is zoned for private recreation and any requests for rezoning must undergo public hearings by the county's Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Both attorneys for Rescue Reston and the Reston Association are monitoring for any proposals to redevelop the courses.

"There's going to be opportunities for the community to come in on any of the proposals that might be coming forward for consideration," says Biesiadny.



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Reston Connection Editor Kemal Kurspahic 703-778-9414 or reston@connectionnewspapers.com



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

More than 80 Fairfax County residents spoke directly to members of the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly at a public hearing on Jan. 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

# Fairfax Lawmakers' Last Call for Input

### More than 80 speak at General Assembly public hearing.

By Tim Peterson The Connection

e're not letting teachers do their jobs," was the plea from Jo Neuber of Vienna

Co-chair of the organization Class Size Counts. Neuber thanked Del. Jim Lemunyon (R-67) for developing three class size bills for the 2017 session of the Virginia General Assembly, including HB1498. Neuber said she was in favor of putting a cap of 24 students in science labs.

Neuber was one of more than 80 Fairfax County residents who spoke directly to members of the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly at a public hearing on Jan. 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

The General Assembly is set to convene in Richmond at noon on Jan. 11, when they will begin work on new or amended legislation for the Virginia Code.

The public hearing was the last chance local constituents had to voice their hopes or concerns for pending or potential legislation in person without traveling to the state capital, though most lawmakers have already all but finalized their legislative agenda for the session.

Education was once again an important topic for many speakers, beginning with Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova.

"Of the \$21 million in additional state

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funding the county was expected to receive in FY2017, \$4.4 of that is already at risk due to the cancellation of funding for raises for teachers and other instructions personnel," Bulova said. "We must get that funding back and we must make sure that funding for those raises is included in the FY2018 budget."

Bulova and Fairfax County Public School Board vice chair Jane Strauss said the Virginia Retirement System rates were accelerated by one year last year, which increases the costs for FCPS by more than \$25 million in FY 2017.

"We ask for help in avoiding funding reductions to our local programs and services," Bulova said, "and opposing restrictions on our local revenues."

Several education advocates echoed Neuber's call to reduce class size, and Bulova's concern for competitive teacher salary levels.

Other topics with numerous speakers included legalization of marijuana for medicinal use; funding for disability services waivers; transportation and congestion reduction; funding for the court system; and the tax on toilet paper, adult diapers and some feminine hygiene products.

Holly Seibold of Vienna is founder and executive director of the group Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters that provides donated feminine hygiene products to who have insufficient access to them. She urged the delegation to support the "Dignity Act," introduced by Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86), that would make toilet paper, adult diapers and some feminine hygiene products tax exempt.

For more information on the General Assembly, to track a bill or find out who your representative to the assembly is, visit virginiageneralassembly.gov.

### Hearing Highlights

Education was once again an important topic for many speakers at the Jan. 7 public hearing for the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly, beginning with Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova.



Robert Sledzaus of Reston asked the delegation to consider a "litmus test" for legislation in their session: "Does it serve homeowners' rights or special interest groups" such as homeowners associations.



Rikki Epstein of Reston is executive director of the Arc of Northern Virginia. Epstein said there "simply isn't room for more cuts" when it comes to the more than 4,000 Virginians with disabilities on the waitlist for disability services waivers that would allow them to receive services to live independently in the community.

Paul McClemens of Reston is the president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers. "We're worse off now than in 2013, the 'year of the teacher,'" he said. "Teacher salaries have barely increased since 2008."

Mary Elizabeth Weitzmann of Reston represented the group Va Norml and advocated for the legalization, regulation and taxation of marijuana. "Couldn't we use the money?" she asked. "It could be used for positive change in Fairfax County. And there are lives, mostly young, that are ruined for illegally possessing and growing cannabis."







### News

# **Reston Town Center Retailers, Patrons** Wrestle with New Parking Fees

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

eston Town Center began charging its patrons for weekday street and garage parking on Tuesday, Jan. 3. Both street and garage parking were free until then. While paid parking is in effect 24 hours a day, weekends will remain free for the garages and Sundays will remain free for street parking. Both garage and street parking will also be free during major holidays.

The shopping center's employees can still park free of charge at all times, but some are not sure the change is good for their businesses.

Even though the paid parking didn't go into effect until after this year's holiday shopping season, two retail managers say it has already driven customers away.

Mary Tisi, who is manager of Origins, a natural skincare store on Market Street in the shopping center, says her store experienced a sharp decline this season.

"We saw a 50 percent decline in our holiday transactions compared to last year ... our store will be closing," she says. "Parking was the final nail in the coffin for us."

Teresa Johnson, manager at the L'Occitane en Provence, which also sells skincare products on Market Street in the shopping center, agrees.

"It's nothing but greed," says Johnson. "It's going to kill the retailers and the restaurants."

Johnson says the mere word of the paid parking beginning in the New Year negatively impacted her store's holiday performance, which saw 41 percent less traffic compared to the previous year.

"We're not profitable and we're not meeting our numbers," she says.

She worries that her store, like Origins, will not make enough of a profit to be able to renew its lease at the shopping center.

The shopping center is collecting payment via the ParkRTC app, which can be downloaded onto smartphones for free through the iPhone App Store or Google Play.

By Dec. 7, more than 21,000 people had already downloaded the parking app.

To encourage further adoption, Reston Town Center will do a drawing on Feb. 1, where those who download the app will be eligible to win one of 10 \$500 Reston Town Center gift cards.

Patrons who choose not to download the app can still park on the streets and the garages. They will instead need to use the garage pay stations or call a number that is listed on signage. For all methods, those parking must identify their parking zone, vehicle license plate and length of stay. The only form of payment accepted is credit or debit card.

For street parking, there is a one-hour time minimum and a two-hour maximum:

**♦** 0-1 hour is \$3

\* 1-2 hours is \$6

For garage parking, there is a one-hour time minimum and a 24-hour maximum:

- ♦ 0-1 hour is \$2
- ✤ 1-2 hours is \$4
- ✤ 2-3 hours is \$5 **♦** 3-4 hours is \$6
- ♦ 4-6 hours is \$8
- **♦** 6-10 hours is \$10
- ✤ 10-12 hours is \$14
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#### [Potomac River] Running coupon. They validate, but I'm not sure I'll be buying anything."

VIEWPOINTS

**Pamela Light of Reston** 

frequent it as often, but I have a PR

What do you think of



#### Lori Axtell of Sterling

"It took me forever to figure out the parking. Not very clear on signs, but it was easy once I figured it out. A lot of places are validating, which helps."



**Aspasia Padgiotis of Ashburn** "Oh, I didn't know they started charging .... I'll stick to weekends now I guess since that's free."



#### Justin Rice of Gainesville "Luckily, we get parking as long as we're employees. I'm surprised they didn't

do it sooner-not that I want them to charge people, but other places do it."

**Christine Keppel of Baltimore** "\$3 is pretty pricey for an hour. I live near the Towson Town Center near Baltimore and it's only 50 cents. I have an event at a hotel nearby and I literally just want a Starbucks. I think my parking may be more expensive than my Starbucks [which does not validate]."



#### School Notes

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

Mary Ruth Brown, a 2012 graduate of Oakton High School and a 2016 graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, is currently in graduate school at East Carolina University studying meteorology/atmospheric science. She has been selected for an internship at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA spring semester 2017

David Clark, alto sax player, is recognized as a member of the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band and will receive honorary jacket in front of family, friends, fellow band members and classmates.

Snigdha Srivastava and Kate Hao, of Herndon, are on the dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis.

Adam Zaman, of Herndon, is on the dean's list for spring 2016 at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He is studying mechanical engineering.

Dinesh Chowdary Inampudi, of Herndon, graduated with a master of science, May 2016 from the University of New Haven.

Kalla Fleger, of Reston, is on the dean's list for spring 2016 at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Non Degree, Coll of Continuing Education.

Elizabeth Ashley Drake, of Herndon, is on the dean's list at Hollins University for spring 2016.

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Photo by Fallon Forbush/The Connection Signs stand outside the entrances of the shopping center's parking garages to remind people that paid parking is in effect. An employee was also standing near the first-level pay station to help people navigate the machines.

"Parking revenues will support Reston Town Center's high quality facilities, family-oriented events, top brand attractions, innovative technologies and nonprofit donations."

#### -Rob Weinhold, spokesperson for Reston Town Center

**\*** 12-24 hours is \$24

The garages also offer monthly passes for \$70. Origins and L'Occitane en Provence will not vali-

date parking for its customers, but some retailers will. The Bowtie Cinema on Market Street in the shopping center will validate parking for up to three hours for its patrons who park in the nearby blue and green parking garages.

The cinema and other participating establishments will provide numeric validation codes for patrons to enter into their ParkRTC app or the pay stations in the garages.

"Every business entity thoughtfully looks through many lenses when making operating decisions, the financial lens being one of them," Rob Weinhold, spokesperson for Reston Town Center, said in an email. "Parking revenues will support Reston Town Center's high quality facilities, family-oriented events, top brand attractions, innovative technologies and nonprofit donations."

For patrons who choose not to pay during weekdays, "violators will be immobilized and charged a service fee at owner's expense," signs read.

# News Company Quits Negotiations with RA on Lake House Independent Review

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

he company selected by a special committee of the Reston Association to review the purchase and renovation of the deficit-plagued Lake House property backed out of negotiations.

Sridhar Ganesan, CEO of Mediaworld Ventures, LLC and president of the Reston Citizens Association, withdrew his company's proposal to perform the review citing financial risk.

"We found that it was restrictive, affected independence and was punitive ... we were hopeful of getting a document that was a lot more simplified without the restrictive conditions," says Ganesan.

As reported in the Connection in December, the RA Board of Directors was still negotiating terms with Ganesan's company, even though it was chosen in September to do the review for a \$1 fee. By Dec. 22, Mediaworld sent a detailed letter reiterating changes it requested.

The letter addressed Ganesan's concern for the nature and tone of the draft contract because it gave the RA certain powers over his team, its work and the final report, which he says would jeopardize the independence of the review.

But instead of receiving a leaner and less litigious agreement, a "Liquidated Damages" clause was added stating that any breach or threatened or perceived breach of any of the key terms set forth in the agreement would result in a \$2,000 per breach pen-

alty, the letter said.

By Jan. 2, conversations broke down when RA had not responded.

"It has been about 10 days since we sent the last letter to you and have had no response," Ganesan wrote in an email to RA on Jan. 2. "Please consider this email as termination of our contract discussions," it concluded.

After he sent the termination email on Jan. 2, the RA replied by saying the association was still open to negotiating.

"RA was and continues to be willing to work with Mediaworld in good faith toward a mutually acceptable agreement," Ellen Graves, RA's board president, said in a statement to the Connection.

"Mediaworld apparently could not find the time to meet to resolve the remaining issues, including many standard terms found in community association contracts designed for an association's protection and which are generally accepted by most companies performing similar services for community associations," Graves' statement continued.

Still, after three months of going back and forth, Ganesan felt like they were not making any progress.

"Bottom line, they had some conditions that would have impacted the independent review that we would have done ... which should not have been in the agreement in the first place," Ganesan says.

The RA will meet later this month to determine the best course of action moving forward on this independent review.



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# **OPINION**About the Reston Connection

appy New Year. We need your help in 2017.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to deliver news that readers need close to home, to help readers enjoy great local places and events, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

If you know people or organizations doing important work, something newsworthy or something that might make a good fea-

ture story, let us know. We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, or accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Send a photo and tell us about it in 200 words or less to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

We feature events in our weekly calendars. We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. To have the best chance of getting an event included in our calendar ahead of time, email us the details of the event (who, what, where, when, why) three weeks ahead of time. Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

After your event, email us a photo and a note so we can consider including it in our coverage. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

### Letters to the Editor Visitor's Account: A Bad Day at Town Center

To the Editor:

As a frequent visitor to Reston and specifically the Reston Town Center, I'm writing about a recent experience with the newly installed pay parking system. I realize that the entire system is new and might have "kinks" to work out, but overall I feel the experience was a disaster and an embarrassment to the parking system. A group of four of us parked to have lunch and see a movie. After a five to ten minute session, trying to install the phone app for the system, we were off. Our first shock was seeing that a credit card number, vehicle information, along with an "estimate" of how long we intended to be parked were required or the inconvenience of making a phone call to supply this information (I'm guessing to accommodate the many people that don't have smart phones?)

We obtained the validation codes from the restaurant and movie theater. All attempts to use the codes failed after much frustration and repeated tries. We returned to the garage and after a discussion with a parking

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We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

Of course we are interested in your news tips and your questions about what is happening in your community.

We are always looking for contributing writers and photographers.

The Connection Newspapers are published by Local Media Connection LLC, an independent, locally owned company. The publications and websites include the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Centre

AL View, the Potomac Almanac and individual Connection papers and websites serving McLean, Great Falls, Vienna/ Oakton, Oak Hill/Herndon, Reston,

Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/ Clifton/Lorton, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly/Fair Oaks, Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

The publications and websites have won hundreds of awards for news and community coverage just in the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Integrity and Community Service for coverage of efforts to prevent and end homelessness, and Best in Show for information/art for coverage of local parks.

The operation of these community-serving publications is entirely funded by advertising. The papers are delivered free to homes and businesses throughout Northern Virginia, and through free digital subscriptions, with more than 150,000 readers across the region. If you or your organization appreciate the Connection publications, please support them by patronizing our advertisers and by spending a portion of your marketing budget with us.

"attendant" realized that he didn't have any idea how to assist with our problem. His only advice was to try again in the morning since the parking charges wouldn't be applied to the credit card until after 24 hours.

If this was anything typical to what other visitors to the town center are experiencing, I feel that all commercial establishments within the center have plenty to fear from this new pay parking system. There are plenty of shopping centers and malls in and around Reston that have a huge number of first class restaurants and other commercial establishments and free parking. I can't imagine visitors being willing to put up with what we encountered during this visit. I know for sure that I won't.

> **Frank Beck** Hamilton, Va.

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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#### Bulletin Board

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

#### JAN. 9 - JAN. 20

**Coat Drive to Benefit Cornerstones at Reston Town Center** Monday, January 9 through Friday, January 20, collection in building lobbies. Help us help those in need in our community stay warm this winter! Reston Town Center will be accepting new or gently used winter coats (in good condition and cleaned), and new hats, gloves and scarves. Items will be collected in boxes located in building lobbies for donation to Cornerstones. restontowncenter.com

#### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 11

DMV2Go at the Pavilion in Reston Town Center 9 - 4 p.m. DMV wireless office on wheels: apply or renew ID card and driver's license; get driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services offered at http://re.ston.tc/P9HLkh

#### **THROUGH JAN. 18**

- **Community Forums on Superintendent Search.** Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), the firm hired by the FCPS School Board to conduct a search for a new superintendent to replace Karen K. Garza, will be holding ten community forums in January to allow Fairfax County residents to share their ideas and feedback on the characteristics they are seeking in a new superintendent. Meetings in our area include:
- % Wednesday, Jan. 11, noon, Providence District Office and Community Center, multipurpose room



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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered

to homes and businesses. Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic Editor ♦ 703-778-9414 kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Fallon Forbush Reporter fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com

**Kyle Kincaid** Editorial Assistant reston@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING: For advertising information sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk Display Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith

Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411 classified@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Executive Vice President Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004 jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

> Editor in Chief Steven Mauren Managing Editor Kemal Kurspahic Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh Production Manager: Geovani Flores

#### Special Assistant to the Publisher Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427** circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



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# COMMENTARY Mission Accomplished

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

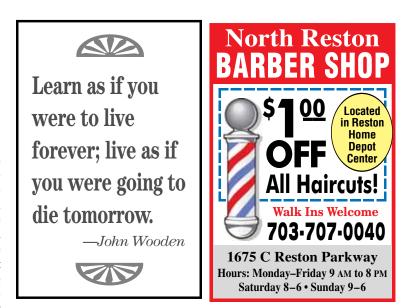
he Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) Board of Directors voted last week to merge with the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTA) with the Alliance going forward to represent transportation interests for the region. As founder of DCRA I felt some sadness at the consolidation of the organization into another entity with a broader purpose, but at the same time I was very pleased with the greater meaning of the merger. On the one hand the merger represented "mission accomplished" for DCRA, and on the other hand it reflected a greater appreciation of the need for a multimodal transportation system for our region.

DCRA was founded in 1998 after conversations I had with members of the Reston Transportation Committee, area residents and members of the business community. My concern that I found was shared by many others was that road building alone would not meet the long-term needs of the region and specifically Reston located in the middle of the corridor. Short-term solutions like widening roads, adding buses or bus rapid transit or light rail trains could be short-term fixes some of which would interfere with adding more substantial infrastructure in the future. The ensuing years were filled with much debate, fits and starts, and ups and downs before an extension of Metro from West Falls Church into Loudoun County was finally approved as the preferred local alternative, federal funds were approved, special tax districts were set up, and agreements and contracts

were signed to make the Silver Line a reality.

For DCRA members the completion of Phase 1 and its operation and the contracting for Phase 2 to be completed by 2020 meant that the work on its narrowly drawn mission had been completed. While issues about maximizing the use of the rail system and access to it remain to be fine-tuned, those matters are best resolved within the framework of a multimodal approach. Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance has moved beyond its road building focus of the past to a more multimodal approach that will support the Silver Line while at the same time reducing congestion and supporting the many different ways that people in our community choose to travel.

DCRA would never have been able to declare victory without the active support of the many individuals, organizations and businesses that supported its mission. They joined together in the "Dulles Rail Now!" campaign at a critically important time, in the beginning sent faxes to key decision makers followed by email in more recent years, held educational seminars for residents and the business community to enhance understanding of transit-oriented development, and cajoled, flattered and persuaded political leaders to support the project. Key to its successful operation was its president Patty Nicoson who joined the organization at its very beginning and continued with it until its victory celebration. She came to the organization with experience as a planner when Metro first came to the District of Columbia and later worked for Arlington County when Metro arrived there. Her persistent but reasoned approach may have been the most important element of DCRA completing its mission.





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# Olivia Beckner Breaks South Lakes High Record in the 1,000 Meters Race

South Lakes High School had a successful showing at The Ocean Breeze Freedom Games indoor track meet Saturday, Jan. 7 in Staten Island, N.Y., which was highlighted by a record-setting performance by junior Olivia Beckner in the 1,000 meters.

Beckner finished fourth in that race with a time of 2:54.06, breaking the school record of 2:58.47 that she set last season. She then teamed with sophomore Sophie Halkett and juniors Aly Rayle and Sarah Wolfe for third place in the 4x800 meter relay (9:33.12). Both events were in 6A state meet qualifying times.

The SLHS boys team was led by the state-qualifying 4x200 meter team of seniors Timiebi Ogobri, Don'ta Whitley, junior Jack Eggeman and sophomore Nicky Napolitano. They finished fourth with a time of 1:32.87 in the finals after running a 1:33.35 in the preliminaries.

Seniors Peter Sepulveda, Jack Watkins, Dimarcus Vilcheck and junior Alex Loukili finished second in the 4x800 meter relay in a Northern Region championship qualifying time of 8:22.07. Louikili also finished fifth in the red division of 1,000 with a time of 2:35.82, which is also a regional qualifying time.

The track team will close out the regular season with members competing at both the conference meet Saturday, Jan. 14 at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington and the Virginia Showcase, Jan. 13-14 at the Liberty University in Lynchburg.



South Lakes' AlyRayle and Sophie Halkett in 4x800 Ocean Breeze Freedom Games race (Jan. 7, 2017)



Alex Loukili and Dimarcus Vilcheck in 4x800 Ocean Breeze Games race.



# CALENDAR

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 12 Encore Chorale of Reston

Rehearsals 6:30pm at St. Anne's Episcopal Church located at 1700 Wainwright Drive, Reston. There are no auditions and singers may be seated for rehearsals and performances. Singers will rehearse each week for 90 minutes in preparation for May performances. The spring repertoire for Encore Chorale includes Porgy & Bess, Va Pensiero, Les Miserables, Do, Lord Remember Me, & more! The conductor is David Lang. The Spring repertoire for the ROCKS choruses includes favorites like, All You Need is Love by the Beatles, Longest Time by Billy Joel, Forever Doo Wop and Rock On-a medley of hits from the 50's & 60's. Fee is \$175 for 15 weekly rehearsals, sheet music, CD in your music part and performances.

#### FRIDAY/JAN. 13

Erev Shabbat Service at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, 6:30-9 p.m. Jewish-American songwriter Michael Hunter Ochs and award-winning Muslim Palestinian peace activist/ songwriter Alaa Alshaham and Shireinu - Hebrew Congregation's youth choir - weave their extraordinary story and music into the worship. Co-Sponsored by The All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS).

#### SATURDAY/JAN. 14

Concert Tribute to Dr. King 4 - 5:30 p.m. Reston Community Center 2310 Colt's Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Community Orchestra presents its annual musical tribute to Dr. Martin



Performers in "The Pursuit of Harmony" in Reston Community Center's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration weekend, from left, Alaa Alshaham and Michael Hunter Ochs.

#### Reston to Celebrate Dr. King's Legacy

Three-days of events for Reston Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration; Jan. 14-16, 2017. For information about performances and events call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com. Events include:

\* "The Pursuit of Harmony" at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. In partnership with the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation and All Dulles Area Muslin Society (ADAMS), Performance Jan. 14, 2017 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$5 Reston/\$10 non-Reston. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com

♦ Keynote address by Eugene Robinson at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods, Reston. Event on Monday, Jan. 16, 2016 at 12 noon followed by Community Lunch. Tickets: \$5 Reston/\$10 non-Reston. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

♦ Note: After the community lunch, there will be an interactive workshop titled "Building Bridges" – A Tool Kit for Finding Common Ground led by Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt, PhD, MSW, LGSW on Monday, Jan. 16 from 3 to 4 p.m. Free, separate registration required.

Luther King, Jr. featuring the work of Olly Wilson, one of the pre-eminent contemporary composers of African-American descent, along with baritone Bryan Wilson and songstylist Beverly Cosham. restoncommunityorchestra.org

#### TUESDAY/JAN. 17

**Concert Joan & Joni** 7:15 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. 110 Devil's Backbone Overlook, Stephenson. Allison and Kipyn bring to the stage many of Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell's well-

# **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Reston Association Board of Directors will be holding a public hearing to consider the addition of the property known as Sekas Homes, located at 11690 Sunrise Valley Drive, to the Reston Association. Conditions of the proposal, which are subject to further discussions, include full payment of the annual assessment per unit and access to an open space recreation area on the property for the Association and its members.

The hearing will be held on *Thursday, January 26, 2017* at 6:30 pm at *Reston Association's Conference Center located* at 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, *Reston 20191* for the Board to receive member comments and consider the proposal.

For more information go to www.reston.org.



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

known originals and folk songs, as well as a few hidden gems. They also highlight the impact these legendary women have had on their own songwriting and performance. Tickets: at the door or contact Dave DAHurdSr@cs.com Cost: \$10 Members, \$11 Non-members.

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 19

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

#### SATURDAY/JAN. 21

Living with Arthritis Seminar 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Join Dr. Mark P. Madden from Reston Regional Hospital Center to learn about the major types of arthritis and their treatment options, and what you can do to manage pain and preserve joint function, mobility and your quality of life. Adults only. Cost: Free. Please register online at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library NextStop's Theater Presents Much Ado About Nothing 7 p.m. NextStop's Theater 269 Sunset Park Drive Herndon, VA 20170.The Shakespeare tale of Beatrice and Benedick, the original romantic comedy. The pair are locked in a constant battle of wits and share a mutual disdain for love.Cost: \$25 average per ticket. www.nextstoptheatre.org/contact/

#### SUNDAY/JAN. 22

Springtime in Winter 2 - 4 p.m. 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston. Reception for a collaborative exhibit of poets, painters, and musicians, featuring readings and music created to complement the works of eight artists. The exhibit will remain on display through February 22. 703-930-5214 mikemaggio@mikemaggio.net

#### ONGOING

Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers Support Group Meetings are the first and third Thursdays of every month, i.e. January 19th, 2017 from 10:00 a.m to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton.All caregivers are welcome to come for support anytime. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838, jtarr5@verizon.net Lynn Rafferty, 703-508-1365

- radmom8992@gmail.com All-comers Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running Every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a free, fun, low-key run that's safe and social. 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com
- NextStop's Shakespeare "Much Ado About Nothing" Jan. 19 -Feb. 12 NextStop Theatre 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tickets at: www.NextStopTheatre.org 866-811-4111
- **"A Bird in the Hand"** through spring 2017 Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market Street, Reston Town Center. See and explore Patrick Dougherty's monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. Presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org
- PenFed Realty Hosts Sievers' Paintings during January 2017 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 am – 5:00 pm. Visit the LRA web site at www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more information on this and other events.

- Little Hands Preschool Art Class at Greater Reston Arts Center Saturdays, January 7 - 28, 10 - 11 a.m. Introducing young children to art by having them explore new artwork, materials, and skills each week. Four weeks of classes cost: \$80 for Reston residents, \$120 nonresidents. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org
- 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

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
- Cost: Free 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 March

#### Plan Ahead Reston & Herndon

#### SATURDAY/JAN. 28 IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Women

successfully reentering the community after incarceration,10 a.m. to noon at Refraction (Reston Town Center). Featured speakers: Clients of Friends of Guest House. Education program from the Giving Circle of HOPE & Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW. Free to attend. Free parking. RSVP to info@givingcircleofhope.org

# HomeLifeStyle

This new home office by Anthony Wilder Design/Build incorporates a custom-designed cord control system.





# Organizing a Home Office

By Marilyn Campbell The Connection

hether located in a basement, spare bedroom or kitchen corner, one of the keys to creating a functional home office is organization. Local designers offer suggestions for styling a space that is both practical and aesthetically appealing.

"Start by thinking about how you would like to use your home office and plan accordingly," said Megan Padilla, senior designer at Aidan Design. "Will it be a desk that easily converts to a homework station or craft area or a dedicated home office for the everyday telecommuter?"

Keeping office equipment out of sight will give the space a home-like feel, says Padilla. This can be accomplished by using storage solutions like printer drawers.

Practical home office organizational solutions include roll-out trays for computer accessories like printers and a wire management system above and below the desk



Storage solutions such as those in this office by Megan Padilla help make home offices aesthetically appealing.

Photo by Robert Radifera

### Design ideas for workspace order.

for power cords and computer cables both on top of the desk, advises Chuck Khiel, vice president of Fred Home Improvement, a division of Case. "Create a Bluetooth operational office space," he said.

"Organizing all of the smaller office supplies can be accomplished with a series of coordinated containers for tools such as pencils, scissors and markers ... or within drawers," added Padilla. "Consider a mix of drawer heights to allow ample storage for smaller desk supplies as well as your typical file folders."

Use open shelving to allow for quick ac-

cess to frequently used items and book storage. "[It] can also make a smaller space feel more expansive," said Padilla.

If a home office is in a spare bedroom, closets can be repurposed and organized to hide copy and fax machines, says Shannon Kadwell, interior designer at Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

"Add fabric bulletin boards in prominent locations and in a complementary color for visual appeal," she said. "Custom built-ins make a huge difference as you can tailor the storage space to individual needs and create more functional spaces."

CONECTION	JAN. 19 <sup>TH</sup> HOME RENOVATION Are You & Your Family Comfortable in Your Home?
Newspapers & Online     UPCOMING SPECIAL SECTIONS     JANUARY     1/1/2017   HomeLifeStyle     1/1/2017   A+ Camps & Schools     1/25/2017   Community Guide     1/25/2017   Winter Fun, Food, Arts &     Entertainment;Valentine's Preview     FEBRUARY     2/1/2017   Valentine's Dining & Gifts I     2/1/2017   Valentine's Dining & Gifts I     2/1/2017   Valentine's Dining & Gifts I     2/8/2017   Valentine's Dining & Gifts I     2/8/2017   Valentine's Dining & Gifts I     Valentine's Day is February 14   Y15/2017     2/2/2017   A+ Camps & Schools     2/2/2017   Pet Connection     Email SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.     Have The Connection emailed directly to you every week!     www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe	<section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></section-header>
Circle Metric     Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households     Dishell Mendon Connection       Newspapers & Online     - Aeaadris Gaantie Packet     - Fairfue Connection     - Dishell Mendon Connection       703-778-9431     - Surial Connection     - Surial Fairfue Connection     - Second on Connection       www.ConnectionNewspapers.com     - Chartify Connection     - Manager     - Singlisid Connection	SUNDESIGN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN-BUILD FIRM
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### Slippery Hope

#### By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When you're diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer, you spend a lot of time talking to yourself, not aloud; well, mostly not aloud, trying to convince yourself of a million and one things that don't lead to that inescapable conclusion: premature death (I know, any death is premature). And when you get sick, as I am now and have been for the past 10 days; not getting worse, just not getting better; it is, at least for me, not only next to impossible, but impossible as well, not to think that perhaps this is the time when you have crossed the Rubicon.

Though what I am referring to are merely/mostly cold symptoms: sneezing, coughing, runny nose, nasal congestion, watery eyes, occasional headache; no temperature or sore throat, no vomiting, no nausea; it's easy to rationalize that I am simply experiencing a severe seasonal reaction to some strain of something which is, if what I hear from friends and family is true, something which is definitely going around. However, that assessment would presume I'm a relatively normal person, 'normal' meaning not a person diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer. Ergo, the conversations me, myself and I are constantly having with ourselves.

And though the answers rarely change (always minimizing, never reinforcing a negative, accentuating the positive), I have to admit the longer I live through these blips on the radar, the less conviction I am able to sustain in my ongoing attempts to talk myself into or out of, whatever the case may be, the challenges emotionally and/or physically, that characterize one's life living with cancer. And believe me, 'living with cancer' is all it's cracked up to be, and I'm one of the lucky ones, a survivor, nearly eight years in fact, post my Feb. 27, 2009 face-to-face appointment with an oncologist; my new best friend, who lowered the diagnostic boom to Team Lourie that day.

I think I can say with some certainty that the one constant in my life these past eight years has been the many conversations I've had with myself. Trying to maintain an even keel; heck, any keel that would keep me emotionally afloat. Obviously, encouraging and supportive words from others have filled many gaps, but there are way more gaps when I'm alone that need to be filled. Reading, writing, 'rithmetic, radio, television and the Internet, fill some and provide distraction for others, but still there are many more times when you're left alone with your thoughts; when the rubber really hits the road and somehow you must get through the night or the post-chemo weak or the before, during and after "scanxiety" and navigate the slings and arrows of the outrageous misfortune which has befallen you.

Mostly I have been successful. Occasionally though I have been depressed. Occasionally I have felt lonely. Occasionally I have felt out of control. And more than occasionally, I have just plain worried. Like now, when I'm sick and tired and wondering if persistent cold symptoms portend the beginning of something worse. After all, I do have lung cancer so any breathing-related and/or coughing problems could indicate an exacerbation of my underlying condition, or so I would guess.

Ah yes, guessing. That's perhaps the real problem. How do you stop yourself from going down that rabbit hole, especially when you've already quadrupled the back end of the number of years: two, offered up by your oncologist eight years ago? I don't suppose I could experience a normal life expectancy after being given a terminal diagnosis. Could I? I guess it's possible. Probable? I wouldn't know. However, there's no harm thinking about it. Except if you're thinking about it all the time.

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



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### ENTERTAINMENT



From left — Vanya played by Andrew JM Regiec, Cassandra played by Alexa Yarboro and Sonia played by Lee Slivka in Reston Community Players' production of 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.'

# Chekhov's Masterworks with American Flavor

Reston Community Players' production of 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike' coming to CenterStage on Jan. 20.

> **By David Siegel** The Connection

ver inventive contemporary American playwright Christopher Durang's Tony Award-winning, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" is the Reston Community Players' upcoming production.

Durang's "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" is an imaginatively adjusted version of several of Anton Chekhov's masterworks all packed together with modern American ingredients. Enjoying "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" requires "no previous knowledge" of Chekov, said Jolene Vetese, RCP Board President.

"We decided to produce 'Vanya' because it is such a funny, eclectic play," said Vetese. "It's a dark comedy that explores these sibling relationships and the people that intersect that relationship.

Playwright Durang riffed on Chekov's moody Russian characters then transported them to present times in Bucks County, Pa. The play has a middle-aged Vanya (Andrew JM Regiec) and his sister Sonia (Lee Slivka) who live a quiet life after providing longterm care for their now-deceased parents.

Soon enough chaos begins when Vanya and Sonia's flashy sister and Hollywood actress Masha (Joanne Maylone) arrives for a belated condolence visit. Sibling rivalries flair along with wit and biting sarcasm. Masha has brought along her younger buff boy-friend Spike (Will MacLeod).

Andrew JM Regiec called his character Vanya a man who "while educated, he hasn't really lived and experienced the world except through books and TV and movies.

#### Where and When

Reston Community Players presents "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, (in the Hunters Woods Village Center) Reston. **P**erformances: Jan. 20 to Feb. 4, 2017, Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m. with Sunday, Jan. 29 matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18 (seniors/students) \$21 adults. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restonplayers.org.

Now that the parents are gone, he's looking back at a life gone by, a little forlorn, realizing he's got little future himself."

Vanya is "repressed...resigned to his life of living like a lump on a log; overly concerned about change," added Regiec.

For Lee Slivka her Sonia character is "snarky and funny as hell as she steps outside of her comfort zone. I want the audience to come along and maybe find a bit of that leap within themselves." Beyond laughter, "there are also moments which may move the audience as they watch this family navigate their history and complexity."

Inviting audiences to partake of Durang's "wonderfully funny look at people and family relations" Monk went on to say, "I would like audiences to come out laughing, remembering and enjoying the characters and the situations they have seen, and content with the final resolution."

Audiences taking in RCP's "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" will have plenty of zingy comedy as well as earthy revelations and even Snow White to savor as Durang's fictional on-stage characters' lives are turned upside down.

### News

Taking a bit of a break from opening packages and sorting hats, project photographer Stefanie Kamerman and volunteer project collection coordinator Molly McKnight model two of the hats knitted for participants in the upcoming Women's March on Washington.



Postman Adam has been getting an extra workout of late, delivering hundreds of packages to the McKnight household in Reston. College student Molly McKnight and her family volunteered to be the collection point for hats being knitted by people around the world to "make a unique collective visual statement" at the Women's March on Washington. Adam and his colleagues have already delivered more than 1,000 hats – and they just keep coming!

# Hats Off to Reston Family The McKnight family volunteering in the Hat Project for the Women's March on Washington.

By Andrea Worker The Connection

he McKnight family of Reston may have slightly underestimated exactly what it meant to volunteer their home to serve as the area collection point for the hats being knitted for the Jan. 21 Women's March on Washington. The project aims to "provide the people of the March a means to make a unique collective visual statement which will help activists be better heard, and to provide people who cannot physically attend a way to represent themselves and support women's rights and issues." A sea of pink, pussycat head-shaped caps bobbing along the streets of D.C. should certainly make that visual statement.

Shortly after the project was announced via social media, a few packages containing the pink caps arrived at the McKnight doorstep. A few weeks later, the mail carriers were taking around 5 minutes to scan and log the dozens of parcels arriving. Before long, some 750 hats "decorated" their basement rec room. "And now it's really taking off. Last week," said Carrie McKnight, "we got like 500 hats in one day!" Maybe they didn't quite expect this massive response, but they say they are "ready and more than willing" to do the receiving and the sorting and the juggling that it takes to prepare the hats for their ultimate homes on the heads of the women and men who will be participating in the March.

**MOLLY**, the eldest of the McKnight kids, has been the primary "hat worker." The young Ms. McKnight, who is preparing to transfer as a Junior to a university school in California, explained why she got involved and what the project means to her, as she sat cross-legged amidst a pile of packages, efficiently opening, sorting, and inventorying.

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Photos by Stefanie Kamerman

Many of the hats come with basic information about the person who knitted the cap, where they are from and what some of the issues are that concern them and brought them to the project. Quite a few, though, according to Ms. McKnight, contain longer letters and personal stories that are "really inspiring."

made several hats and said she was really sad, but angry, too, that we had to march to protect the same rights that she marched for back in the '70s. She thanked us for doing this in her place."

**KAMERMAN** has a more personal inspiration among the senior set. "My 70-yearold aunt is coming up from Virginia Beach to march with me!"

Both are also pleased that the younger generations seem to be on board, too. Hats, letters and pledges to remain active in working for equality for all came from college and high school students, working moms' knitting groups and even "a 7-year-old first time knitter." Hats have even been coming from outside the United States, from places like Great Britain, Belgium and Germany.

"It's really great," declared Kamerman, "that people from so many walks of life, all ages, all around this country and the world, and with a variety of issues, are all coming together." She hopes that after the March, this unity will continue and will raise a "newer conversation."

Molly is hopeful as well, that the March and the Hat Project will propel more of her generation to get involved to protect the rights of all and to see that "doing the grunt work is just as important to getting things done." She no doubt had more to add, but it was about that time – the doorbell would soon ring and today's delivery of hats was about to arrive.

The deadline looms for the hats to be delivered at the Reston "way station." If you are interested in adding a cap or two to the effort, check out the website www.pussyhatproject.com or visit their Facebook page. The Women's March on Washington (men are most welcomed) is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21. More information is available at www.womensmarch.com.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

"It started kind of accidently," she said. Molly's namesake, a long-time family friend from California, had heard about a group of women who were planning to knit hats for the marchers. She mentioned the project to the the McKnights and Molly and family asked if there was anything that they could do to help. Turns out there was. The founders of the project, Californians Krista Suh and Jayna Zwieman, were looking for someplace to house the hats, made based on a pattern designed by knitting store owner Kat Coyle, until they could be moved to a number of distribution points.

Her initial involvement may have been accidental, but Molly's growing commitment has been anything but. "Each hat comes with information about who knitted it, where they're from, and what are issues that are important to them. Some come with longer letters, stories about obstacles and discrimination that they experienced. Some were sending hats in dedication to someone or in the memory of a family member or friend. Some just said that they couldn't come to the March, but they wanted to still be a part of it. Their stories are really in-

#### spiring," acknowledged Molly.

Stefanie Kamerman is a knitter, but that's not what had her sitting beside Molly in the McKnight basement, helping her in her sorting duties. "Yes, I am knitting for the project," she said, but Kamerman is also the official photographer of the endeavour. "I heard about it through the knitting community. I am a writer and a photographer so I just emailed them and asked if they needed help, even though I figured they probably already had a photographer on board. Well, they didn't – so here I am."

Like Molly, Kamerman admits that she couldn't be called an activist before this election. "This is a time of change, even for me," she said. The married mother to a young daughter, Kamerman voted Democrat for the first time in November, and says that what she has seen and heard and what she believes is at risk, makes her feel that she must do her part. "I will do this, and I will march to show solidarity, to promote caring, kindness and love."

Molly and Kamerman both feel especially inspired by the letters from older women, "like one 90-year-old lady," said Molly, "who