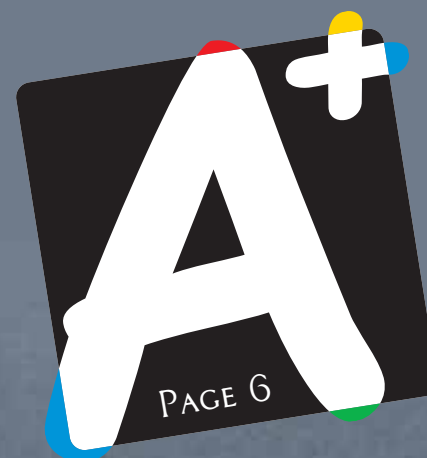




Reston CONNECTION



"I know! I know!"
Many of the students
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Barker) questions
during the living
history assembly at
Armstrong Elementary.

Close Encounters With History

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MLK Keynote:
From Obama to Trump

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

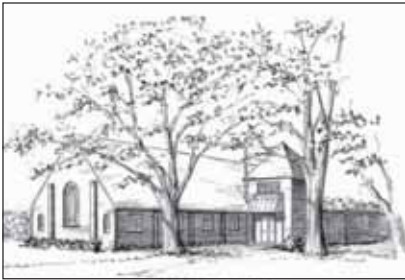
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WEEK IN RESTON

Community Meeting on Funding for Transportation Improvements

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a community meeting on the Reston Network funding plan, Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive. The meeting will focus solely on the Reston Network funding plan.

The purpose of the Reston funding plan, as directed by the Board of Supervisors, is to conduct an inclusive process to prepare a funding plan for the transportation improvements recommended in the Reston Master Plan.

The funding plan will include arrangements for financing the public share of Reston infrastructure improvements and facilitate cooperative funding agreements with the private sector.

Discussing the Challenges of Reentering Community

On Saturday, Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon, Refraction (Reston Town Center) will host a program titled "In Their Own Words: Women successfully reentering the community after incarceration. Featured speakers: Clients of Friends of Guest House.

This is an education program from the Giving Circle of HOPE & Reston-Herndon Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW). Free to attend. Free parking. RSVP to info@givingcircleofhope.org



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna Presents Certificate of Appreciation to Ortho Virginia in Reston

Jayne Young, Director of Operations/Events at the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) stopped by the office of Ortho Virginia in Reston to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Mark Madden.

Ortho Virginia has been a supporter of SCOV, most recently as a Silver Sponsor at SCOV's Capitol Steps signature fundraiser. Ortho Virginia has nine other offices located throughout Northern Virginia. SCOV's volunteer drivers deliver many of their patients to Ortho Virginia offices through their free ride program. Pictured: Mark Madden, MD and Jayne Young, SCOV.

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MLK Keynote: 'How Did We Get From Barack Obama to Donald Trump?'

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Journalist Eugene Robinson gave the keynote address for the Reston Community Center's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on Monday, Jan. 16, at the CenterStage.

The three-day event is the 32nd year that Reston has celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. King.

Robinson has been an associate editor for the Washington Post since 2005. He received a Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for distinguished commentary for his opinion columns that he wrote in 2008 about the presidential campaign, which focused on President Barack Obama, the first African-American to hold the office.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, he reminisced about that time eight years ago and took the audience back to election night 2008. He told the crowd that he had spent the evening in New York City commentating on the set of MSNBC.

"It was a moment I would never forget," he said. "It was 10:45 p.m. when we heard in our little earpieces that the network was going to call the election for Obama at 11 o'clock."

Reality set in for him. "Looking around the table, I said, 'Oh dear. When they call the election for Obama, they're going to go to the black guy, and so I better think of something to say,'" he said, making the audience burst into laughter.

The network went to a commercial break and he pulled out his cellphone to call his parents, who were still alive at the time.

"I got to tell them that they had lived to see the election of the first African-American president," he said. "That was my moment from the 2008 election."

He then asked the audience to jump ahead eight years to another election with a different outcome that he said "we're still trying to figure out."



Eugene Robinson speaks at the Reston Community Center's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on Monday, Jan. 16, at the CenterStage.

He reflected on his latest Jan. 12 column where he wrote about Obama's presidential legacy:

"The White House is really a glass house, and for eight years we have watched the Obamas live their lives in full public view. We've seen a president age, his hair graying and his once-unlined face developing a wrinkle here, a furrow there. We've seen a first lady change hairstyles and model an array of designer gowns.

We've seen two little girls grow into young women."

He explained how, to him, one of the most lasting impacts of Obama's presidency is the visual of seeing a black family in the White House— seeing Obama walk across the South Lawn of the White House to get on Marine One, walk down the steps of Air Force One, deliver the State of the Union address, or host a state dinner.

"All of these ceremonial set pieces that

we're used to seeing, we know what the picture looks like, but now it looks different," he said. "I think visual information is so powerful. It sort of rearranges the furniture inside our heads and gives us a different idea of what is possible, of what is right."

He told the crowd he had been pondering a question as President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration looms.

"How did we get from Barack Obama to Donald Trump?" he asked the audience.

While he said Trump had an undeniable connection with voters on the campaign trail by striking a chord of "white, working-class grievance," he also said the man is "unhinged."

He told the crowd that Trump is the kind of man who, on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, picked a fight with U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., by calling him "All talk, talk, talk — no action or results" via a tweet on Twitter.

Lewis, a civil rights icon, stood with King on Aug. 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom where King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.

"It's just crazy on every level," he said.

But he told the crowd that this stark contrast in behavior between the president and president-elect will continue during the next four years.

"It seems fairly clear for me what I have to do because I'm journalist," he said. "My reaction I think has to be to do my job and hold this new administration accountable."

But not everyone is a journalist.

He told the crowd that they, as citizens, also need to engage in holding the administration accountable by demanding the respect for the rule of law because it is vital to society," as Dr. King surely would have reminded us," he said.

"I think we've got a lot of work to do," he said, finishing his speech.

"I appreciated his candor and his ability to empathize with his audience," says Alexis Kassim, 32, of Reston who listened Robinson's talk. "How I've been explaining my feelings as a black woman is that I may not live in safety, but I don't live in fear."

Kassim is associate pastor of the Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ in Bethesda, Md.

"I'm nervous about losing protections— civil rights, voting rights, environmental protections," she says. "I'm nervous all of the progress we've made will be rolled back."

Ken Reinfeld, 71, of Reston, also has concerns.

"I think what [Robinson] is saying is important," he says. "To have a morally bankrupt person become president and the impact that will have on our children is worrisome."

But Kassim remains hopeful.

"I believe in the power of the people and my generation," she says.

Woodland Park Approved

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

A well-regarded development plan by Herndon-Monroe Metro Station in the Hunter Mill Planning District did not achieve approval without controversy.

Instead of the previously approved plan for 1.223-million-square-foot office park with five office buildings and asphalt parking lots, the proposed five-development block plan will create 74 single family homes, 90 two-over-two stacked townhouses, two buildings with 515 multi-family dwelling units, and two

office buildings totalling 580,000 square feet including ground floor retail.

Outside, applicants Woodland Park Parcel 1, L.P. and NVR, Inc. will preserve six acres of the 31-acre site for parkland, a trail to connect development to the Metro and a grid of streets that creates pedestrian friendly development blocks.

Attorney Elizabeth Baker called The Hunter Mill application "a joy to be a part of."

"It really does meet the planning principles that we have in the in transit area in the Reston area," she said.

Hunter Mill Planning Commissioner Frank de la Fe called it a significant im-

But several urge planners to delay approval and encourage developer Tishman Speyer to cut ties with Clarion Project.

provement over the originally planned office development that was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2002 which could have included a hotel.

The development plan drew controversy Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017 at the planning commission meeting, not because of the planned and supported details for the Herndon site, but because owner Tishman Speyer leases an office in one of its buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue inside the District of Columbia to the Clarion Project.

"We like most others see this development

as a good thing," said Colin Christopher.

"But we were deeply troubled when learning about the ongoing business relationship that Tishman Speyer have with one of the most well financed hate groups in the United States, the Clarion Project."

Alison Park of the Jewish Voice for Peace asked the Commission to "please postpone your vote tonight and call Tishman Speyer tomorrow."

"Let Tishman Speyer know that hate

SEE WOODLAND PARK, PAGE 12

OPINION

Counting on Our Reps in Congress

Sound the call to action; resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters.

While most voters in the United States did not vote for Donald Trump for president, it was all the more so here in Northern Virginia. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote nationwide by 2.9 million votes.

In Virginia, Clinton won 49.75 percent to 44.43 percent over Trump; 1,981,473 votes for Clinton to 1,769,443 votes for Trump.

In the City of Alexandria, Clinton won 75.56 percent of the vote, with 17.54 percent voting for Trump; 57,242 to 13,285 votes.

In Arlington, Clinton won 75.83 percent of the vote, with 16.64 percent voting for Trump; 92,016 to 20,186 votes.

In Fairfax County, Clinton won 64.43 percent of the vote, with 28.61 percent voting for Trump; 355,133 to 157,710 votes.

Most people in this area didn't vote for the kind of changes that might be coming with this change of administration and party. They didn't vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They didn't vote to give massive tax breaks to the nation's wealthiest families, in many cases millions of dollars per family. Certainly they didn't vote for broadside attacks on Medicare, or to undo progress on climate change. This list could go on for some time.

With all of this and much more under consideration, we rely on our members of Congress, including our two U.S. senators, to fight, to stand up and resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters, to sound the call to action in every case it is needed.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer says he will not attend the inauguration.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner rallied with thousands in Alexandria last weekend to oppose the repeal of the Af-

fordable Care Act.

Even the one Republican member of Congress from the region, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), spoke out against Trump during the election. Comstock could play an important role standing up for the values of voters in her district, and will play an important role in representing the interests of the region.

Call your representatives and tell them what matters to you. Every Virginia resident is represented by Virginia's two U.S. senators and one member of Congress. Of course this pertains to those who supported Trump as well.

Beyer: 202-225-4376

Connolly: 202-225-1492

Comstock: 202-225-5136

Warner: 202-224-2023

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine: 202-224-4024

We welcome your letters to the editor; submit at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Role Model for Leadership

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



Former Senator Charles J. Colgan passed away earlier this month. He retired just a year ago as the longest-serving State Senator in Virginia history. He was the last remaining World War II veteran serving in the Commonwealth's Senate. He truly earned a place among the "greatest generation."

Chuck as he preferred to be called by his peers was orphaned by age five, raised by his grandparents, and served in the Army Air Corps. Aviation was an important part of his life; he founded Colgan Airways flying out of Manassas with service to 53 cities. His wife of 52 years preceded him in death. Surviving him are his eight children and their spouses, his second wife, 24 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

Beyond his personal and business life, Senator Colgan's public life was unparalleled. He served on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors before being elected to the Vir-

ginia Senate for the 40-year tenure he completed. His awards and recognitions are numerous—the most recent being the naming of the Charles J. Colgan, Sr. High School in Prince William County. All this history of the man does not capture the essence of what made him so highly regarded. He ran and was elected as a Democrat all his life even as he voted consistently pro-life on issues of abortion. He stayed in office while Republicans won most of the elective positions in his area. In the Senate he was known for his willingness to work across party lines on issues he thought were important. He was an avid supporter of public education and was greatly influential in supporting funding for George Mason University, including its Prince William campus, and funding for new buildings for the Manassas and Woodbridge campuses of Northern Virginia Community College.

He was a much-loved and towering figure for his philosophy of life that he often expressed in folksy terms. He was known to advise that one should always be worth more

SEE PLUM, PAGE 5

Rail in Reston, Great While It Worked

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT
PRODUCER/HOST



Remember that thrill in Reston in July 2014 when the Silver Line station at Wiehle Avenue finally opened? After 45 years waiting for rail down the middle of the toll road, we had our own train station! We boarded a train that very first afternoon and rode it to the other end of the line—Largo. We stopped at Eastern Market, which we'd never visited, and on the way home, we stopped in Tysons Corner for a nice dinner at Coastal Flats. It was great!

Two and a half years later, we watch what appears to be a collapsing Metro system. Today if we need to go to Washington, we are inclined to drive due to doubts about Metro's reliability. Train accidents, fires and smoke in the tunnels with no timely response to aid passengers, failed maintenance, aging and filthy train cars, and constant delays are now the system norm. General Manager, Paul Wiedefeld, frankly assessed Metro's ills as: 1) a system with total maintenance failure—hence the accidents, delays; 2) a culture of carelessness and worse, including routinely falsified inspection

and maintenance reports; 3) shortfalls in new equipment; and, 4) failure of Metro's member governments to provide the funds essential for critical infrastructure and equipment as well as operating costs.

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Mr. Wiedefeld has courageously addressed numbers 1) and 2). He has instituted a huge maintenance catch-up program, but at great cost to system service over a year and a resulting sharp drop in ridership. He also fired 20 managers. Number 3 has proven tougher as he confronts the difficulty of getting member governments to commit the essential funds each cycle, which leads me to number 4. Unlike most public transit systems in the U.S. and elsewhere, area governments have refused to provide a guaranteed source of funding to meet the system's needs. Thus, there is a constant wrangling among the District, and Maryland and Virginia jurisdictions who "own" the system. Critical needed infrastructure—e.g., to build additional capacity like bridges or tunnels to conquer the Potomac bottleneck—is the can they keep kicking down the road.

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 5

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OPINION

Mediaworld Explains Lake House Decision

To our fellow Reston Association members:

We are the Reston residents who came together under Mediaworld Ventures, LLC and were selected to conduct an independent review of Reston Association's acquisition of the Lake House, and subsequent renovation budget overrun. We were selected over many applicants for our professional expertise, our commitment to service, and our cost of \$1. Our sole intent was to serve our membership and help Reston Association improve its processes.

From September until December we were involved in detailed negotiations with Reston Association and its attorney over a consulting agreement that established the terms of the independent review. Our team worked countless hours reviewing and amending the 17-page agreement to ensure the review's integrity and members' interests were protected. The conditions presented to us were extremely restrictive and we felt they would hinder our ability to conduct a truly independent review. Further, the agreement did not guarantee a public release of the final report by the Reston Association, which our team felt was critical to "ensuring the concerns of the community were addressed" —a condition in the RFP set by Reston Association, which we agreed to meet.

When we reached an impasse with the Reston Association attorney we requested a meeting with the Board. At a public meet-

ing on Dec. 7, we highlighted four major issues that we felt would hinder our ability to fulfill our obligation. We believed the Board understood our concerns regarding the restrictive terms and tone of the agreement, and we hoped it would result in a more reasonable agreement, especially after we learned that the Board signed a simpler, four-page contract with another consulting firm. Although the revised agreement we received in return resolved some of our concerns, it contained additional terms and conditions leaving a number of issues unresolved. In spite of the Association's offer to pay for liability insurance, we felt that there was still an unacceptable level of risk remaining in the last proposed revised draft. Given the almost three months of contending with some of the same issues we had raised earlier, we felt the likelihood that further negotiations would be productive were minimal and that it would be best to terminate the negotiations.

We are very disappointed that we could not come to terms with Reston Association on this work. A more detailed review of the contract negotiation can be found at <http://reston2020.blogspot.com/2017/01/review-of-mediaworld-contract.html>.

Dick Stillson, Jill Gallagher, Moira Callaghan, John Higgins and Sridhar Ganesan, President, Mediaworld Ventures, LLC

Plum

FROM PAGE 4

than you are being paid. A smile, he would say, is like a business card; it only works if you give it away. He was always cheery regardless of the tough issues he faced. These statements of his philosophy were included in the program for his celebration of life as "Colgan's Top Ten." He understood that the best way to defeat your enemy is to make him your friend. The qualities that made him so richly admired by his family, neighbors and legislative colleagues inspired 800

people to come to his retirement party and many hundreds to come to his Mass of Christian Burial. That kind of attendance proved he embodied his belief that when you are getting ahead in life, make sure you reach out and give someone a hand up. Live your life, he would say, in such a way that if someone speaks ill of you, no one will believe them. I believe Chuck Colgan is a true role model for leadership for he believed that one should always ask yourself, "Am I doing the right thing?"

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 4

Lately the political glue holding the Metro together shows signs of simply coming unstuck altogether. In apparent desperation, Wiedefeld and others have suggested that the federal government take over Metro, presumably to restore order and create a permanent revenue stream to provide the subsidy essential to operate a public transit system. To date there is no sign of consensus among Metro's constituent governments to press the Feds to consider absorbing the system. Nor has anyone of stature among the Feds volunteered to explore this alternative. And, don't bother looking for leadership on Capitol Hill.

Instead, squabbling among the juris-

dictions has broken out again. This time, two DC Council members have come up with an innovative cost reduction proposal. Simply kill the second phase of the Silver Line, thus eliminating a chunk of future operating costs and relieving pressure for major new infrastructure such as a tunnel or a bridge. Unfortunately, the second phase of Silver is already halfway built and just leaving it there for all to see ain't gonna happen. Fairfax Board Chairman Sharon Bulova rightly pointed this out to her DC colleagues. She then put her foot in it, saying the solution is for "member jurisdictions to join together, leverage our collective resources and ingenuity, and fix Metro". Sadly, she offered no concrete proposals or cash to do so.



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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

“I know! I know!” Many of the students were eager to answer “Mr. Jefferson’s” (Bill Barker) questions during the living history assembly at Armstrong Elementary. That enthusiasm and excitement were repeated at all of the presentations that the two men made at schools like Buzz Aldrin ES in Reston, Brookfield ES in Chantilly, West Gate ES in Falls Church, and Hutchison ES in Herndon.



Jim and CarolAnn Babcock of Reston love history, particularly the period that gave birth to the United States of America. Retired engineers, the Babcocks felt that this look at “who we are and how we got to be the people we are today” couldn’t be emphasized enough. “In a few short years, these young people will be the voters and the hands at the helm of our country. They need to know as much as they can,” said Mrs. Babcock.

A Close Encounter With History

Herndon students experience the birth of the nation.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

It’s a good thing that Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry were hardy souls, given the myriad of activities and actions and travelling and time that they both gave to the formation of “these new United States of America,” as our illustrious third President described the union the original thirteen colonies formed in 1776. It’s equally fortuitous that two of their modern day re-enactors seem to possess the same level of interest in that formation, even 241 years later, and a similar level of stamina – enough to have them bring their knowledge and enthusiasm to youngsters at eight different schools around the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system in just three days.

Richard Shumann (AKA Patrick Henry) and Bill Barker (otherwise known as Thomas Jefferson) brought their “always in persona” living history lesson to hour-long assemblies of elementary school students in Falls Church, McLean, Chantilly, Herndon and Reston, and if you had been fortunate enough to attend one of these events, you would have found their presentation and energy as fresh at the last assembly of the



“Mr. Patrick Henry” (AKA Richard Schumann) got things started at the Armstrong Elementary School assembly by talking about the difference between English and American customs, such as the English bow versus the American handshake.

day as at the first, some six hours earlier. The two men interpret their character for the Colonial

Williamsburg Foundation and have been doing so for years.

There was very little “oration,”

as “Mr. Henry” described his introduction at each school. Instead, the program relied primarily on engaging the audience first with the visual of their costumed appearance, and then by simply letting them loose with whatever questions they had. Apparently a sound plan. The youngsters quickly caught on and got on board. There was never one of those awkward silences. You know. “Questions anyone? Anyone?” Hands were constantly being waved by students who wanted to know more about the men who influenced the founding of our country and the times they lived in. “I really enjoyed when they started to answer questions from us,” was Chinmay Bhandaru’s comment after the assembly at McNair Elementary in Herndon. “I loved that they really acted like Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson! They acted like friends, and would sometimes disagree on things,” said Chinmay’s schoolmate Deccan Maniam.

KUDOS, by the way, to the teachers and staff at McNair, the second stop on Wednesday’s whirlwind tour. The assembled students seemed to already have a firm grasp on the subjects of the day. One young lady stood up and asked “Mr. Henry” if he would mind repeating a bit of his most famous speech. “Mr. Jefferson” quipped that his “esteemed friend” would never mind being asked to “orate” and any time or place, and as “Mr. Henry” finished his words

with a shouted-out “Give me Liberty or give me Death,” the assembly applauded vigorously.

The questions kept coming, but nothing seemed to stump the Colonial visitors who answered always in the language and context of their “times.” “It was amazing how they knew so much information,” marvelled Srihan Kotnana. Both “Mr. Jefferson” and “Mr. Henry” openly expressed their delight at their knowledge and the quality of the questions that the fourth and sixth graders asked.

“Well done, Sir! Excellent question,” praised “Mr. Henry,” when asked why he had opposed the passage of the United States Constitution. “I am a Virginian,” he replied, “and wish to remain so.” Despite Henry’s passionate belief in the need for the Colonies to free themselves from the “tyranny of that most unpleasant of men, King George III,” the real Patrick Henry did not believe that a united Federalist system was a good idea. Indeed, he predicted that to establish the government in that way would ultimately lead to a civil war.

Regardless of where the far-ranging conversation took them, “Henry” and “Jefferson” somehow always found a way to artfully weave in some of the central themes behind their program.

“Jefferson” often found ways to remind his audience about the need for education and how lucky they were to have it so readily accessible to them. With an anecdote about how his “Declaration of In-

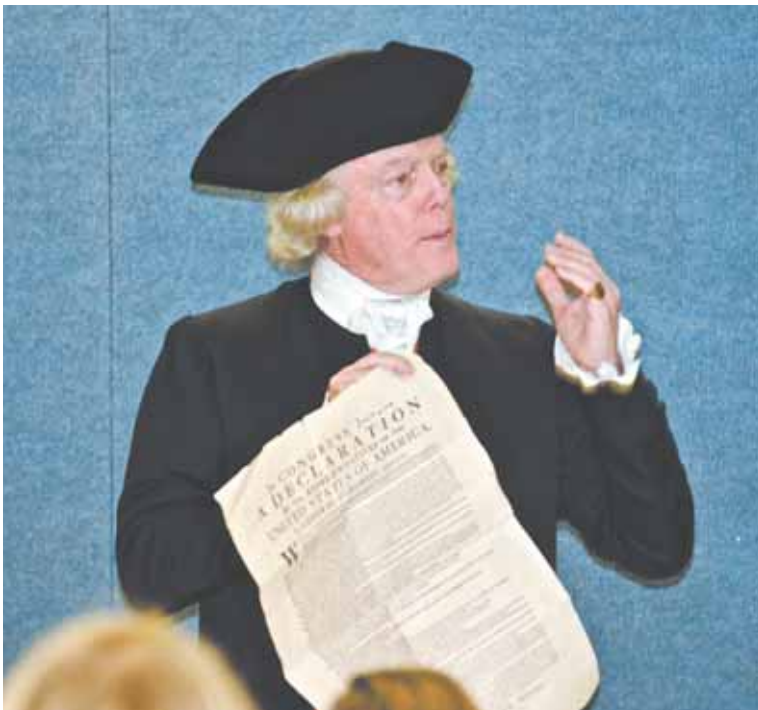


PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Many of the students were shocked to learn the Jefferson's "Declaration of Independence" was frequently thrown into the gutter when it was handed out to the average "citizenry." A bit of questioning and discussion, and they soon understood that this action wasn't disregard for the ideas, but that most people couldn't read. "Make good use of this amazing opportunity for education," the Armstrong youngsters were encouraged.

dependence" was often "tossed into the gutter when handed to the citizenry, "Jefferson" had the students looking aghast. "Why would they do that?" shouted out a few. "Why do you think?" he asked back. A small moment of silent contemplation, and one young lady tentatively responded, "Because they couldn't read it?" Exactly so, young lady!" said "Mr. Jefferson."

In the days of Henry and Jefferson, they were told, it was usually only white, rich males from landed families who had the education to read. "Don't squander this amazing opportunity that you have," was the advice given to the students.

The two men also spoke strongly about civic responsibility, telling their audience that the fate of the nation would pass into their hands. "History does, indeed, repeat itself," warned "Henry." He insisted that to deal wisely with the present and the future required understanding of the past. "If you know your History, you will be better prepared."

THE OPPORTUNITY to see "History come to life," as the program was described by McNair student Ayesha Kapoor, is made possible by the generous, personal funding of Jim and CarolAnn Babcock, both retired engineers who reside in Reston. The Babcocks have been partnering with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for about 8 years, each January bring-

ing the informative and engaging program to schools in the Fairfax County system.

"We've always believed that understanding history is essential to understanding who we are as a country and a people," said Mrs. Babcock. They also like that a key focus of the program is helping the students to learn to research and to seek the "primary sources," rather than just accepting "circular reporting." In a day and age when the phrase "fake news" is being heard so often, the Babcocks want to do whatever they can to promote education and fact-finding. Over the years, their "gift to the future" has expanded from five schools, to twenty-two. All of the schools on the 2017 tour were new recipients of the Babcock mission.

The Babcocks not only fund the program, but they personally attend the assemblies, as well. In addition, they also provide scholarships for teachers to attend a one-week educational course at Colonial Williamsburg. This summer, the Babcocks will be sending 17 teachers to the Teachers' Institute. They are also helping to provide "Hands-on-History Kits" – one for each FCPS region - that contain items related to soldiers, slaves, and Native Americans of the Colonial times.

All of this seems like a lot of work, but CarolAnn insists that "It's a project of love. It really keeps us going, and we are doing what's important for the future of our country."

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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.





PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Princess Fiona, played by Lauren Spiers, nears the end of her solo.

Recognized for Excellence

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Students from the Lopez Studios, Inc. Performing Arts School in Reston competed in the 2017 iTheatrics Junior Theater Festival this weekend, Jan. 13-15, in Atlanta, Ga.

The students won the Freddie G Award for Excellence in Ensemble Work and student choreographer Kendyl Florence won an individual Excellence in Student Choreography award.

Groups participating in the festival had to perform a 15-minute selection of a musical for a panel of theater professionals. The 23 students, ages 7 to 15, representing Lopez Studios performed their selection from “Shrek the Musical JR.”

The musical is based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks film and follows an ogre named Shrek whose peaceful swamp is disturbed by fairytale misfits who have been

banished by the villainous Lord Farquaad.

This is the school’s fourth year competing in the festival and the kids began rehearsing in September, says Michael Fowle, conservatory program director.

Lopez Studios has come home with awards in previous years of the Junior Theater Festival, including winning the Freddie G Award for Excellence in Ensemble Work in 2016; the Freddie G Excellence in Dance Group award in 2014; and an individual Freddie G Outstanding Student Director and Choreographer award for student Kendyl Florence.

“I was really proud of the excellence in ensemble work because it means they worked together as a team,” says Fowle. “We’re just happy to be down there and for them to do their best.”

Lopez Studios will be performing the full version of “Shrek the Musical JR” at the NextStop Theatre in Herndon from Thursday, March 16, to Saturday, March 18.



Lopez Studios’ full cast: Top row, from left: Nissi Torro, Sonia Mott, Emma Connolly, Ethan O’Donovan, Rachel Rubin, Mary Kurbanov and Thomas Miner; Second row: Alyssa VanLandingham, Tess Jannery-Barney, Catherine Zavela, Lauren Spiers, Ava Plante and Marcus Pennisi; Third row: Maria Christou, Tiffany Bennett, Cady Denk, Tess Mellinger and Logan Wagner; Fourth row: Camille Ciambruschini, Ava Bodell, Lindsey Newberg and Ian Wagner.



Shrek, played by Ethan O’Donovan, sings in his swamp with the Ensemble.

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like most about your role?

Sonia Mott, 16, Homeschooled in Reston, plays Pig 2

“I love the solidarity of the role with Mary and Marcus [Pig 1 and Pig 3]. We all step forward and speak in unison. It’s a really fun and collaborative process.”



Rachel Rubin, 13, Joyce Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, plays Mama Ogre

“For me, it’s not as much about the role I have as it is with the ensemble. I love working with all my friends and amazing cast members. It’s my third year going to the festival and it’s always such a fun time. Thousands of theater kids coming together and singing songs, what’s not to like?”



Logan Wagner, 12, Flint Hill School, plays Lord Farquaad

“I like my roll a lot because it’s a very comedic character. You can really be out there with the character. He’s very flamboyant. My favorite part of the show is my entrance. Everyone kneels and I walk on their backs. It’s very Lord Farquaad-ie.”



Lauren Spiers, 15, Chantilly High School, plays Princess Fiona

“It’s my first time going, so I’m kind of nervous. But the rehearsal process has been so much fun. I like having the opportunity to put myself into this well-known character. I’m playing her more peppy and less princess-ie.”



CALENDAR

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

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

THURSDAY & SATURDAY/JAN. 19 & 21

"Broadway Bound." Herndon High School Presents "Broadway Bound," featuring songs from West Side Story, Newsies, A Chorus Line, In the Heights, Rock of Ages, Little Women and many more. Herndon High School auditorium, Thursday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10 at the door, \$5 for students and seniors.

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

TUESDAY/JAN. 24

INOVA Blood Drive 12 - 7 p.m. beside Pavilion. Schedule appointments at 1.866.256.6372 or inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

Meet Me at the Movies - Senior Movie Day at Bow Tie Cinemas Doors open at 9:15. Reston Association presents "The Hollars." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information: Ashleigh@reston.org 703-435-6530 reston.org

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

Cooking Class at Il Fornaio 12 - 2 p.m. Includes three-course luncheon with wine and recipes. \$55. Tax and gratuity not included. Reservations: 703-437-5544 banquets.reston@ilfo.com



PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS/COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

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 at CenterStage

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.

Performances: 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.

Rock & amp; Roll Art and

"Cerphe's Up" Book Signing at ArtInsights 2 - 5 p.m. Meet legendary DC DJ Cerphe Colwell, signing his new book, "Cerphe's Up," and see an exhibit of rock & roll musician art on display all through January until February 6. 703-478-0778 artinsights.com

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 non-residents. 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

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SPORTS

Olivia Beckner Sets Another South Lakes High Record

South Lakes High School's Olivia Beckner capped off the regular season with a personal best and school record in the mile at the Virginia Showcase Invitational indoor track and field meet Jan. 13-14 at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

Beckner ran a 4:57.30 for second right behind winner Heather Holt of Marshall High school, who finished in 4:57.26. Her mile time converts to 4:55.58 for the 1,600, which eclipses the SLHS record of 4:59.44 set by Anne Evans during the 1987-1988 season.

Beckner also teamed with sophomores Sophie Halkett, Cara Hutson and senior Devyn Jones for a 6A State Championship Meet qualifying time of 4:05.26 in the 4x400 meter relay at the meet which featured some of the top high school teams on the east coast and Jamaica.

Jones, who will continue her track career at the Air Force Academy, had Northern Region Championship meet qualifying times in the 55 meter hurdles (8.83) and the 300 meter dash (41.82). Halkett was second in the 1600 meter run in a Liberty Conference championship meet qualifying run a 5:20.83.

Junior Ronak Cuthill won the shot put competition with a throw of 47-01.00, which also qualified him for the region meet. Seniors Timiebi Ogobri and Don'ta Whitley ran region qualifiers in individual events and together as members of the 4x400 meter relay team. Ogobri ran a 6.62 in the 55 meters while Whitley finished the 300 meters in 36.65. They joined junior John Eggeman and sophomore Stevie Jones for a 3:32.76 in the relay.

Several members of the SLHS indoor track team also competed in a conference meet Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. Senior Jessica Rice won the shot put competition with a conference qualifying throw of 30-03.50.

South Lakes will compete in the Liberty Conference Championship Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md. The two-day event will conclude Saturday, Jan. 28. SLHS is the five-time defending girls champion and has won the boys title eight consecutive years.



Olivia Beckner in the 4x400 meter relay race.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Devyn Jones, left, in a VA Showcase race Jan. 13.



Timiebi Ogobri competing in VA Showcase.

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

confidence and self-esteem by providing high school students a free prom dress and other accessories. Donate new or lightly used formal dresses, shoes, jewelry, handbags & accessories, collected in boxes located in building lobbies. restontowncenter.com

THURSDAY/JAN. 19

Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites members of the community to help pack food for its Weekend Food for Kids program which provides nonperishable food over the weekend to children who receive reduced-price meals during the school year at Title I schools in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. The food packing is at 10 a.m. at Dominion Resources, 3072 Centreville Road, in Herndon. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. to help with setup.

Event contact Karen Amster: karenamster@aol.com. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 30

Health Screening in Reston. Residents living in and around Reston can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screening by Life Line Screening. Washington Plaza Baptist Church at 1615 Washington Plaza in Reston will host this event. Packages start at \$149, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

I Think Therefore I'm Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as I write a good game, and talk a good game, I don't think as good a game as I write and talk. As I sit and write this column, on Saturday, January 14, I am four days away from my regular, recurring, quarterly CT Scan, scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, followed up almost immediately by my normal post-scan, face-to-face appointment (I have had telephone appointments) with my oncologist two days later on Friday, January 20. As you all are reading this column, it's almost like real time, except you only know my feelings and some dates, but not the results/facts.

Nor do I, of course, as of this column's publication and of your reading it, and therein lies the reason for this column. Waiting, wondering, worrying and hoping is what I/Team Lourie will be doing for the next six days. And though we've all been through it before (nearly eight years of 'it'), enduring 'it' never gets any easier. In fact, it gets more difficult in a way. Partially because, given my original "13 month to two-year prognosis, this waiting for scan results shouldn't be happening. I can't help thinking that I'm borrowing time. I wasn't diagnosed as "terminal" for nothing. I was/am a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, meaning the cancer had (1) metastasized (spread) which is never good and (2) was inoperable, which is self-explanatory. Both of which determine a stage IV diagnosis thereby minimizing one's options. Ergo, my prognosis. Yet here I am, nearly eight years later, anticipating the results of my next CT Scan to learn whether I've been given another reprieve or another reminder of why I was diagnosed stage IV in the first place: tumor growth and/or movement.

Somehow, I must ignore the facts and the statistics, ignore the reality; and as Andy Dufresne said to "Red" in "The Shawshank Redemption:" "Get busy living or get busy dying." Which as you regular readers know is what I try to do, or at least write like I try to do. And to friends and family, it appears to be what I'm doing. However, in my head, six days away from learning my fate (at least for the next three months until my next CT Scan/brain MRI), I am not exactly 'living' it. I'm stuck, more or less, between "why worry" and "what if?" As a consequence, I can't get out of my own way, sort of; heck, I can barely get out of other people's way.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not moping around "woeing-is-me;" that's not my nature. But I am having some difficulty deluding myself into thinking (living) that the next few days are somehow a random-type meaningless occurrence that will have no bearing on my life. Quite the contrary, it's everything. There's no more important time in my life than waiting for the results of the varying diagnostic tests that I have. And though I remain mostly asymptomatic now, (last week's column: "Slippery Hope" notwithstanding), I was also asymptomatic (generally speaking) when I was first diagnosed in February 2009. Consequently, feeling nothing does not provide the same comfort and joy as you might think. Granted, feeling symptoms would be worse. But considering that over the years feeling/not feeling symptoms have both lead to encouraging and discouraging results, I'm not comforted by anything until after my oncologist tells me if my warranty has been extended.

Feeling something, feeling nothing; I never know what to feel except fear — of the unknown, and for the next few days, my future is what's unknown. Living through that is always a challenge. If I've convinced readers and friends and family otherwise, all the better. Personally speaking, it's only easy writing and talking about it. Living it is another story entirely.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH FRIDAY/FEB. 24

Diva Central Dress Drive with Reston Community Center. Monday, Jan. 23 through Friday, Feb. 24, collection in building lobbies. Reston Community Center's mission for the annual Diva Central Dress Drive is to promote

Communities Practice Disaster Recovery

Volunteer group forming to help Hunter Mill area recover from potential disaster.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

More than 185 people registered to learn about forming a Community Resiliency Group for the Hunter Mill District, which would be activated to aid in the local area's recovery after a disaster.

Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management explained the county's new concept to participants during a seminar at the Heritage Fellowship Church on Fox Mill Road in Reston on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

"The complex terrorism stuff, it's out there," Roy Shrout, the deputy coordinator of Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management, said during the seminar. "You know it is, it's everywhere. We have people here in Fairfax. We know they're here. You just have to be alert. You have to make sure you're ready to go."

POSSIBLE DISASTERS can range from terrorist attacks to weather events like storms and floods, to earthquakes, power outages and chemical spills.

Each magisterial district within the county will have its own Community Resiliency Group once the Fairfax County Community Collaboration for Disaster Resiliency Pilot Program is completely rolled out.

The program is funded from a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiatives Program and CRGs have already been set up in the Mason, Braddock, Sully, Dranesville, Lee and Mount Vernon districts.

"This allows more of the community to be more involved if something happens and allows the community to find out what they can do for each other," says Shrout. "We're



A table of first responders, representatives from area faith groups and the Reston Hospital Center discuss how their organizations could help during the recovery phase of a disaster situation.



Lee Falron, a Red Cross volunteer from Vienna, helps with the Red Cross disaster action team as well as the feeding team that supports first responders. She participates in an exercise during the seminar.

getting capabilities that we didn't know existed."

As part of the CRG, leaders must sign their organizations up to participate through Volunteer Fairfax. The participant form to sign-up requires participants to list resources and capabilities that may be available during a recovery effort, including

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



Emily Swenson, the chief operating officer of Volunteer Fairfax, explains to seminar goers how her organization is part of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Plan to coordinate volunteer and donations management.

transportation, generators, food, clothing, storage, tools, commercial refrigerators, commercial washers and dryers, volunteers, translators, communication networks, parking lots, counseling services and more.

Participant's capabilities are then added into a database that is managed by Volunteer Fairfax to use to help find volunteers and resources after a disaster occurs.



Fazia Deen, outreach coordinator for the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church, volunteers to be her group's scribe during a tabletop exercise.

"We are asking leaders to fill out the participant form," Emily Swenson, the chief operating officer of Volunteer Fairfax, said during the seminar. "CRGs are really trying to harness and understand what the capabilities and resources are that your organizations have already that might be able to be brought to the table should there be an emergency and need for them."

Once an organization is signed-up, participation is always voluntary. But for organizations that already assist those in need, involvement in a CRG could provide additional protection.

"If you open up your facility without Fairfax County coming to you first, then you assume whatever liability that you have at that point in time," Shrout said during the seminar. "If Fairfax County comes to you ... then any issues that you may have at that point in time will be covered by Fairfax County."

However, the county's coverage is secondary to any other insurance a volunteer or volunteer organization may have already.

ON THURSDAY, FEB. 9, the Hunter Mill District CRG will meet again at the Heritage Fellowship Church on Fox Mill Road in Reston at 6 p.m. to practice how it would respond to a local snow disaster.

This will be done by conducting a tabletop exercise that has been developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Exercise Program.

Community leaders in the Hunter Mill District are encouraged to get involved.

Woodland Approval Raises (Unrelated) Questions

FROM PAGE 12

groups are not welcome in Fairfax County," she said.

"Postpone approval of this project until Tishman Speyer becomes a global citizen and provides assurance that no hate group will ever occupy one of their buildings in Fairfax County," said Jeanne Trabolsi.

"Some may see this as a minor issue, 'It's just one relationship, they are a large national corporation with buildings everywhere all over the nation, it's just one small relationship,'" said Christopher. "But I would ask this commission if you think it as a small issue."

"I come to stand for what is right and

what is just," he said.

The Clarion Project says on its website: "dedicated to exposing the dangers of Islamist extremism;" others see it as anti-Muslim. The Southern Poverty Law Center says Clarion Project "is an organization that makes and distributes millions of anti-Muslim films."

THE THREE ADVOCATES caught the attention of the 11 Board members present Wednesday night.

At-large Planning Commissioner Janyce Hedetniemi abstained from voting "because I'm concerned about the emotion that has been expressed to us today."

Sully District Planning Commissioner

Karen Keys-Gamarra added, "Your words weigh very heavily on my heart. If I had the power to do something I would."

Hunter Mill District Commissioner de la Fe said, "I was moved and frankly I agree with what I heard about Islamophobia in this nation."

"I sympathize with what I heard. Our nation is going through what I call a difficult time, But we are here to make land use decisions based on what is good for Fairfax County as part of the land use process."

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hold its public hearing on Feb. 12, 2017.

ELIZABETH BAKER, of Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, highlighted amenities for

the public, including architectural design, diversity of housing, affordable housing and trails creating connectivity to the Metro for pedestrians, as well as cyclists, and a "well designed, residential mixed use community with significant public benefits such as the establishment of a grid of streets and a robust open space and park network."

"I really can't comment on the testimony you have heard this evening. I have no knowledge of any of it," said Baker.

"But I can comment that what's before you tonight is a land use application that has gone through the appropriate process."