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Reston CONNECTION

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Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny answers questions from the audience during a public meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19. The Department is seeking permission from the Board of Supervisors to establish a 40-year road fund and a special service district to raise \$350 million from people who own residential and commercial property near metrorail stations.

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Firefighters used a ladder to get a fire hose to the second-floor attic to extinguish the fire.

Fire Displaces Herndon Family

A family of six in the town of Herndon was displaced after a fire damaged their home on Friday, Jan. 20.

The four adults and two children were inside the home at the time of the fire, but there were no reported injuries because they evacuated before firefighters arrived, according to the Fairfax County Department of Fire and Rescue.

Around 4 p.m. firefighters arrived at the home on the 700 block of Van Buren Street where they saw smoke coming from the

attic of the two-story home. They quickly extinguished the fire and contained it to the attic. There were smoke alarms present in the home, however, they had no batteries. Thankfully, a passerby noticed smoke coming from the roof and alerted the occupants.

Fire Investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and was caused by electrical wiring. Damages have been estimated to be \$68,750.

The family was provided assistance from the Red Cross.

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COMMUNITY OUTLOOK 2017



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LAKE ANNE AT RESTON CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

LARCA presented this rendering to the Reston Association last fall. The RA Board of Directors will be discussing these recommendations this week.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RESTON SOCCER ASSOCIATION

This rendering was presented to the Reston Association Board of Directors in October. The board will continue discussions about the proposal in March.

Revitalization Efforts In The Works

Reston Association hires new director to oversee capital projects.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Reston Association hired Garrett Skinner as director of its new Capital Improvement Planning and Projects Department this month. He began work on Monday, Jan. 9. The new department, which includes three current RA employees, is responsible for the oversight of the association's capital projects.

Skinner and his new department comes after the association's highly-criticized handling of the Lake House, a property that went over budget and yielded revenue shortfalls ever since it was purchased in July 2015 for \$2.6 million.

While the association still works on hiring an independent organization to conduct a review of the Lake House's acquisition and renovation, Skinner's immediate goal is to develop a stronger project management process.

"We need to ensure the money that is being spent on these projects are done wisely and that we are able to effectively track the progress of projects and that we can avoid any risks associated with those projects that may have been experienced in the past," he said on his fourth day on the job.

"As I start to get a handle on what projects are active and what's planned, my first order of business is to make sure that the projects that are scheduled and funded are making the progress they should make and are meeting the expectations of the board and residents of Reston," he added.

The ongoing construction of new Silver Line metrorail stations in Reston will incentivize redevelopment around the stations and Reston Association wants to make sure it keeps up with development.

"We're looking at what changes will need to be made in our facilities to keep up with the rest of the development in Reston," says Larry Butler, RA's senior director of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources.

Butler and Skinner identified these major revitalization efforts that are in the works right now.

1) Hook Road Recreation Revitalization

Reston Association's Reserve Study forecasted more than \$122,000 in expenditures for the Hook Road Ball Fields between 2016 and 2020. This includes repairs to the park's baseball, basketball and soccer fields and tennis courts.

The study is conducted every five years to identify which RA facilities need maintenance and allocates funding.

"Most of our facilities have not been updated since the developer gave them to us, in some cases back in the 60s," Butler says.

Groups that frequently use the facilities have approached RA staff to urge them to make changes, including adding dugouts, storage areas and a permanent bathroom facility, and other upgrades for safety and playability.

Instead of making repairs, a landscape architect will be hired to draw up some ideas to revitalize the park, according to Butler.

"I make no predictions on where it will end up," he says. "It could end up that there is very little change or there could be a wholesale change."

Butler will be working with RA's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in the com-



Garrett Skinner,
RA's new director
of its new Capital
Improvement
Planning and
Projects Department.

ing months to discuss the improvements and will be working with community members to gather feedback.

2) Lake Anne Dock Revitalization

The Lake Anne Dock is located within a historical district of the Lake Anne Village Center. In August 2015, the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and the Lake Anne at Reston Condominium Association (LARCA) produced a design charrette to explore ideas and strategies to redevelop the Lake Anne Village Center. This included revitalizing Lake Anne Plaza and increasing access to the lake by replacing and redesigning the dock, which RA owns.

Meanwhile, funding for the replacement of the Lake Anne Dock was approved by RA's Board of Directors in November 2015.

In 2016, RA staff began planning and scoping for the project, which included the removal of approximately 500 cubic yards of sediment that accumulated beneath the dock. LARCA and the Lake Anne Merchants Association (LAMA) approached RA staff to discuss combining their efforts.

"The lake is a great asset, but it's underutilized in terms of how the public can enjoy it," says LARCA President and resident Rick Thompson. He is also the husband of RA Board Secretary and At-Large Director Eve Thompson. Together, they own the Lake Anne Coffee House and Wine Bar located in the Lake Anne Village Center.

"You can walk down the dock, but you're about 4 feet above the water and there's nowhere to tie up your boat," he says.

Melissa Romano, resident and owner of the Lake Anne Brew House located in the plaza right off the lake, agrees.

"When you come here to the plaza there is really only space for maybe two pontoon boats to tie up here at the bottom of the concrete steps, and anyone who tries to tie up their boat along the wooden dock anywhere finds that they're 4 feet below sea level and they have to poll volt out of their boat, which is nearly impossible," she says.

LARCA would like to add dock fingers that extend from the main dock so more boats can access the plaza. LARCA would also like to add water-level steps to facilitate canoe and kayak docking, which would also help bring the dock into compliance with federal American with Disabilities Act requirements. Floating extensions of the dock for seating and tables are also desired.

"If we were to go in and just replace our dock, like-for-like, we would plan on starting that in October," says Butler.

However, since the dock is located in an historic district, proposed changes not only have to go through Reston's design and review process, but also through the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board.

"There's no question that adding those elements would complicate the process some," Butler says. "Then there's the question of funding. Who would pay for those additional elements?"

RA has budgeted to replace the dock and remove sediment, but that's just a maintenance activity, according to Butler.

Both Romano and Thompson emphasized the value that the plaza brings to the community, including the many events that utilize the site.

The Reston Community Center hosts its weekly "Take A Break Concert" series during the summer at the plaza. The plaza is

SEE FACELIFT, PAGE 11

OPINION

Not Helping the Local Economy

Federal hiring freeze will have rippling effect.

The hiring freeze announced earlier this week, will not help the local economy which has struggled in recent years due to the sequester, automatic cuts and limits to federal spending. The federal government is a critical part of the local economy and had helped recession-proof the Northern Virginia area, but more recently it has been a negative.

Kudos to U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) for speaking out against a foolish freeze on federal hiring. As the lone Republican representing Northern Virginia in Congress, her opposition is important.

"The federal budget cannot be balanced on the backs of our federal workforce. I don't support this type of across-the-board freeze and think it is better to look at priorities and areas where appropriate cuts can be made and where we can consolidate efforts or identify unnecessary costs that can be eliminated," Comstock wrote. "As the General Accounting Office has previously reported, past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people. We will be monitoring and highlighting the results of this freeze and how it is impacting the mission of various agencies."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) identifies the freeze as one of many "anti-federal workforce policies" in the works.

"Past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people."

— U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA10)

"An across-the-board federal hiring freeze is a mindless way to manage. ... It fails to take into account the need to actually beef up certain capabilities in the federal government, like cybersecurity," Connolly said. "This Executive Order, coupled with many of other anti-federal workforce policies being proposed in Congress, will have a depressing effect on our ability to recruit and retain the next generation of federal workers."

EDITORIAL

Bills to Watch in General Assembly

In no particular order, more to come next week:

❖ SB 1005 Community services boards and behavioral health authorities; services to be provided, in particular, access to same-day access to mental health screening services.

❖ SB 923 raises felony larceny threshold to \$500 (\$1,000 would have been better).

❖ SB 1379 that discourages universities from stockpiling cash, and instead lowers tuition for Virginia students and families.

❖ SB 931 removes the exemption for "working papers and correspondence" for university presidents.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) calls it scapegoating. "The number of federal workers is at its lowest level since the 1960s, and over 30 percent will be eligible to retire in the next year," Beyer said. "A report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on previous federal hiring freezes stated such freezes are not an effective strategy for shrinking the size of the workforce, and only serve to disrupt agency operations and in the long-term increase the cost of government operations."

❖ SB 1376, requires a 30-day notice from the Board of Visitors before tuition can be raised.

❖ SB 1102, records of closed investigations of unattended deaths were not exempt from the state Freedom of Information Act.

❖ SB 1442, requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to identify an evidence-based, standardized instrument for mental health screening for anyone incarcerated in local, regional, and community correctional facilities.

❖ Various proposals for nonpartisan redistricting.

Diversity in the Legislature

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



COMMENTARY

are sent to the legislature. But the state is changing. Look at any of the maps that show by red and blue the outcome of statewide elections. The cities and

suburbs are most often blue with a huge segment of the map being red to reflect the more conservative voters in the rural areas. Even this generalization is not always true as more of the state has turned blue in recent years. Party organization and discipline work to hold onto or gain power. The artificial forces of gerrymandering slow changes in partisan control of the legislature in spite of strong citizen interest in changing the gerrymandering or gerrymandering process of drawing district boundaries. My bill to establish a non-partisan redistricting commission was defeated once again this session.

New people moving into a leg-

islative district can change the political complexion of a district leading voters to ask whether the incumbent continues to represent their points of view. Such shifts in population can lead to a rare electoral defeat of an incumbent or an early voluntary retirement of a member. While the legislative agenda of a given member may seem to be too extreme in whatever direction, that member is representing a constituency. For the Commonwealth to move in a desired direction it may be necessary to "throw the bums out," or there may be the need to better inform and educate the general public. I make it a point to try and inform my constituents as much as possible on issues and on resources they can use to learn more themselves. As far out as some legislative proposals you hear about may seem to be, they are important to someone. The challenge for the legislature is to determine the public good among the diverse opin-

ions and to govern in a way that is open and inclusive to all. When the legislature is captured by extremists, the outcome will not be the best for citizens.

This weekly column will not be able to report the outcome of all or even a fraction of the bills being considered in this session of the General Assembly. News media will help, but to keep up in a comprehensive way go often to the website: <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>. You will come to appreciate the diversity of the legislature even more. I would be pleased to hear your views on any issues; write to me at kenplum@aol.com.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN LOVAAS

Crowd filling metro train at 7:35 a.m. at Wiehle Station in Reston. Not an exaggeration to say thousands came from Reston alone. Heavy volume lasted from 6 a.m. to almost 12 noon.

Restonians Join March on Washington

BY JOHN LOVAAS

The mood was one of joyful camaraderie along with determination to stand up to what marchers saw as a terrible threat to their values and their country.

My 16-year-old grandson was attending his first march and first protest. Initially concerned about being a lonely male in a Women's March, he was soon infused with the spirit and felt as one with the lively, fiercely determined throng. He was soon not only singing along, but creating and leading his own protest chants—e.g., “hey, hey, ho, ho, Donald Trump has got to go!” And hundreds nearby were joining in as the new wisdom spread more broadly through the crowd!

It was an amazingly diverse crowd, maybe



Lovaas family ready to board Silver Line train in Reston. From left: Terry Loveman, his son Cole Loveman, 16 on March 1, John and Fran Lovaas.

one in ten being male, from the very young to the very old. While majority white, there was strong ethnic variety making up at least a third it seemed to me.

On two occasions we saw paramedics come to take stricken seniors to an ambulance. The crowd parted like the biblical sea to make way for the stricken and the responders. Similarly, people packed shoulder to shoulder somehow made way for baby strollers and wheelchairs miraculously sharing in this all-hands-on-deck event.



Crowd from Silver Line train headed north from Federal Center station towards Capitol and Parade staging and speeches platform.

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Road Fund and Service District Proposed For Property Owners Near Metrorail Stations

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is seeking permission from the Board of Supervisors to establish a 40-year road fund and a special service district to raise \$350 million from people who own residential and commercial property near metrorail stations.

The county agency requested authorization to advertise a public hearing on the Reston Transportation Funding Plan from the board during its meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 24, after deadline for this paper.

If approved, a public hearing will take place on Feb. 28

Property Owners Affected Are Only Within The Reston TSAs

Reston is served by three Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority metrorail stations on the Silver Line: the Reston Town Center, Wiehle-Reston East and Herndon stations. The county designated the areas around these stations as Transit Station Areas (TSAs).

The money raised by the funding plan would be used to construct transportation infrastructure projects that were identified by the county's Reston Transit Station Areas Comprehensive Plan amendment, which the Board of Supervisors adopted on Feb. 11, 2014.

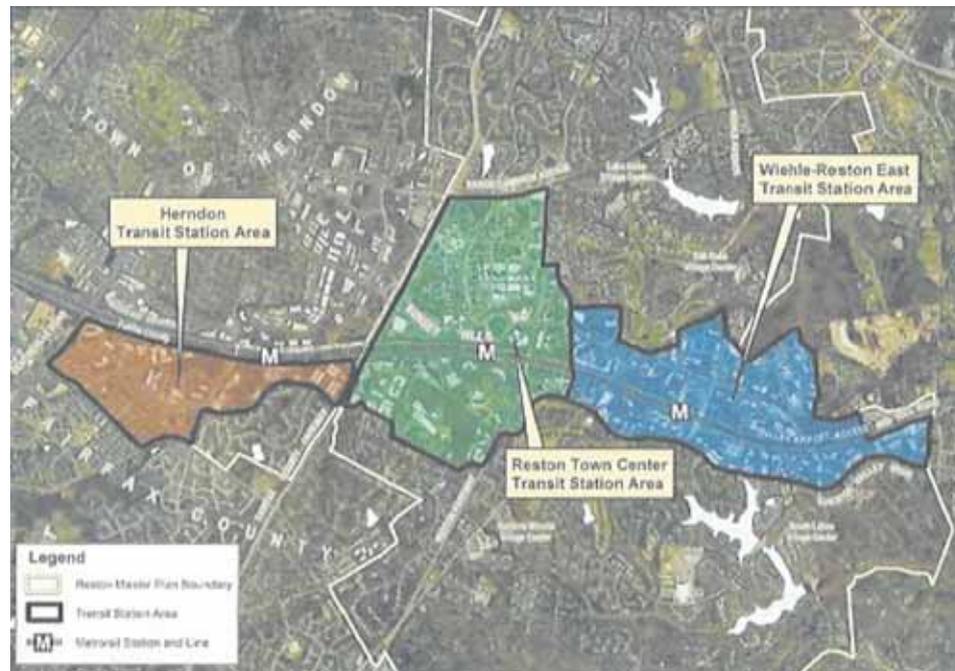
These include roadway improvements, intersection improvements and new roadways to add to the TSA area's road network to improve connectivity to, from and around the transit stations.

The funding plan will use \$1.2 billion in public funding:

- ❖ Federal: \$155 million
- ❖ State: \$174.5 million
- ❖ Regional: \$580.55 million
- ❖ Local: \$289.95 million

"Funding source totals may change, but the county will remain committed to funding the public share of the approved funding plan," said Janet Nguyen, FCDOT funding plan project manager.

The funding plan will use over \$1 billion in private funding, with the majority ex-



COURTESY OF RESTON MASTER PLAN SPECIAL STUDY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A map of the Reston Transit Station Areas (TSAs) that would be subject to the funding proposal. The Wiehle-Reston East and Reston Town Center TSAs are located along both sides of the Dulles Airport Access Road and Dulles Toll Road (DAAR) from the Virginia Department of Transportation owned storage facility to the east, Hunter Mill Road on the southeast and Fairfax County Parkway on the west. The Herndon TSA is located along the south side of the DAAR and is bounded by Fairfax County Parkway on the east, Fox Mill Road and Sunrise Valley Drive on the south and Centreville Road on the west. Land to the north of the Herndon station is within the town of Herndon.

pected to be raised through in-kind contributions from developers who will build new projects in the area.

Still, there is a \$350 million balance that the county needs to make up over the 40 years.

Residential property owners would pay for 4 percent of this balance, or \$14 million, by contributing to a service district, according to Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny.

Developers would be responsible for the rest through in-kind contributions or payments to both the service district as well as the road fund.

The tax district will affect all property owners in the TSAs, but the road fund is only for new development. By right con-



Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny answers questions from the audience during a public meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19.

struction is not subject to the road fund payments.

For the road fund, the rates are proposed at \$2,090 per dwelling unit for residential property and \$9.56 per square foot of commercial property.

The service district rate for homeowners is 21 cents per \$100 of assessed value of the property.

According to Biesiadny, the average assessed value of residential property in the Reston TSAs is \$260,000. At the proposed rate, that would equate to \$54.60 per year.

"It's a very small percentage of the total," says Biesiadny.

Initial Public Response

Nearly 30 people gathered at the North County Governmental Center on Cameron Glen Drive in Reston on Thursday, Jan. 19, for the first public meeting about the proposed funding plan.

Those in attendance included Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Reston Association CEO Cate Fulkerson and Reston Association At-Large Board Director Ray Wedell.

"Developers should be paying every penny of this stuff," Tammi Petrine, co-chair of the Reston 20/20 Committee, said during the Q-and-A portion of the meeting. "Residents who are trapped in that corridor should have nothing to do with it."

Petrine, who does not live within the TSAs, also voiced concern over the rates for the service district and the road fund and how they are not proposed to be fixed. As proposed, the rates would be set annually by the Board of Supervisors.

"The board sets the rate as part of their budget negotiations," Biesiadny said. "It can't just go up and down a hill. It's set once a year."

Those in attendance demanded that Supervisor Hudgins give her stance on the proposal.

Though Hudgins did not say she would vote for or against the proposal, she did say that the mechanisms have been successful in the past.

"We have used road funds and tax districts efficiently and responsibly in Fairfax County in the past," Hudgins said.

New Silver Line Stations On Track In Herndon and Reston

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

New metrorail stations are slowly rising up in Reston and Herndon. An update on work for the region's newest metrorail line was provided during the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Director meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 18.

The Phase 2 extension of the Metropolitan Washington Area Transit Authority's system will extend the Silver Line from Reston through the Washington Dulles In-

ternational Airport, to Ashburn in Loudoun County.

Since work on Phase 2 began in 2014, employees have put in more than 3.2 million man-hours, as of Dec. 23, 2016, according to Keith Couch, spokesperson for Capital Rail Constructors, which has been contracted for most of the work.

While the six new stations are not anticipated to be operational until 2020, work on the Reston Town Center station in Reston, and the Herndon and Innovation Center stations in Herndon are well underway.

"We continue the station work on the east of Reston, Herndon and Innovation [stations]," Charles Stark, executive director of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, said during the meeting.

Work is on track, even though workers encountered a problem at the Herndon station earlier this fall.

"We found some hard rock in conflict with the Herndon station foundations, which required extra drilling," Stark said.

The hard rock cost the project \$12,026 in contingency funds by the time it was solved, but workers are now beginning the

installation of electrical and mechanical equipment. Stark also told the board that Herndon station's concrete structures are still being precast.

Just behind the Herndon station, structures for the Reston Town Center station began being precast this month and will be completed in March, according to Couch.

At the Innovation Center station in Herndon, which is the farthest along, workers are now starting the installation of the steel roof and finishing electrical and plumbing, as well as construction of the columns for the pedestrian bridges.

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

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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

Rock & 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

"Some Things I Can't Explain" Opening Reception 7 - 9 p.m. Join us for this unique gallery show, works that are hung from the ceiling in a unique exhibit not to be missed. Share the experience together with friends and complimentary refreshments. For more information call 703-956-9560. ArtSpace

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

NextStop Theatre Presents "Much Ado About Nothing" 7 p.m. 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. For discounted tickets (\$25 versus \$35), send an email to herndonvillagenetworkinfo@gmail.com and include your name, contact information, and number of tickets you would like. It's a wonderful way to support Herndon Village Network's mission of assisting area seniors — and to have lots of laughs with your friends.

MONDAY/JAN. 30

Environmental Achievements 7 - 8:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The Sierra Club hosts a presentation about what Arlington is doing to combat climate change and promote clean energy and how Fairfax can learn from these achievements and implement similar measures. Cost: Free. s.weltz@yahoo.com

Plan Ahead Reston & Herndon

TUESDAY/FEB. 7

Reston Lions Bland Competition. 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center at Hunter Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Sixteen students with a variety of voice, piano and instrumental talents compete for awards on the local club level and for opportunities to advance to Regional, District and State finals. Participation and concert admissions are free. restonlions.org

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

Fracking "What's the Fuss?" 7:15-9:00 p.m.

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WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 7

Reston Community Center in Hunters Woods, Room 3, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Where is it taking place in Virginia, and what should we do about it? Join Reston LWV members as they continue a two-month study of this environmental issue currently being examined both nationally and in Virginia. Learn the facts about what is happening in Virginia, whether we should be concerned, and what we should do about it. Cost: Free. 703-471-6364 www.lwv-fairfax.org

ONGOING

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.

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



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: Through 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.

classes cost: \$80 for Reston residents, \$120 non-residents. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org
"Some Things I Can't Explain" Featuring Artist Rahshia Sawyer. On Exhibit through Sunday, February 11, 2017. Opening Reception

Saturday, January 28, 2017 from 7 - 9 p.m. My work contrasts a Daedalean journey of figurative photographs, with the subject disconnected from the ground as a signifier of their transforming reality. 703-956-9560.

ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon, VA 20170. http://www.artspaceherndon.com/ev/things-cant-explain/

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

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.

SEE WINTER FUN, PAGE 9

Freezin' For A Reason Set for Feb. 11

Wonder Woman. Super Man. Batman & Robin. Just an example of some of the costumes folks adorn to jump into Lake Anne in frigid temperatures for the Annual Freezin' for a Reason Virginia Polar Dip, set to take place on Saturday, Feb. 11. The mid-winter event in its 10th year will kick off at 12:30 p.m. with music by Danny DJ, family friendly activities, and warm-up - with the Dip scheduled to take place starting at 2 p.m. Each year the event draws record crowds of both spectators and jumpers raising over \$100,000. The event participation has increased over the years with the first year consisting of 33 jumpers to 2016 consisting of 215. This year's event is estimating approximately 250 individuals to take the jump off Lake Anne's dock. Registered participants will take a chilly full jump or a "Chicken Dip" - to raise funds for Camp Sunshine, a national year-round retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

The creation of the Virginia Polar Dip was started by a Northern Virginia based family the Toths after a long history with Camp Sunshine. They first attended Camp Sunshine as a participating family in 1996 when their daughter Jennifer was a cancer patient at age 3, and they have returned as volunteers every summer since. After Jennifer participated in a Camp Sunshine Polar Dip in New Jersey, her family decided to bring the event to Virginia in order to help more local families. Since the event's inception, 1,484 people have participated in the Vir-



Hundreds will mark ten years jumping into a frigid lake for a children's charity.

ginia Polar Dip raising over \$623,000 for the camp. The event will be emceed for the seventh year in a row by 97.1 WASH-FM morning show radio personality Chilli Amar.

This year's goal is to raise \$100,000, which will allow 40 families from the Mid-Atlantic area to come to Camp Sunshine. Through pledges or self-sponsorship, each participant will raise/donate a minimum of \$100 for the opportunity to plunge into the frigid waters, and will receive a commemorative "I DID IT" event shirt. Spectators are

welcome to come and cheer for the plungers. This year, Lake Anne Plaza merchants the Reston Used Book Shop, Kalypso's Sports Tavern, and the Lake Anne Brew House all formed employee staff teams to join in on the fun.

In addition to the Dip, Lake Anne Merchants will be hosting a variety of activities and promotions in their stores:

❖ Chesapeake Chocolates, Wine, Gifts, and More - Wine tasting from 2-4 p.m., all proceeds from wine sales will be donated

Event Details

The 10th Annual Freezin' for a Reason (Virginia Polar Dip) will be held Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront) - 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston, 12- 3 p.m. (Registration, Music, Activities, Post-Dip Celebration). Actual Polar Dip Begins at 2 p.m. Website(s): www.freezinforareason.com, www.campsunshine.org, www.lakeanneplaza.com

Cost: \$100 minimum donation to plunge and is open to anyone willing to brave the elements for a good cause. Free to spectators. Rain or Shine (will be rescheduled if major snowstorm is forecast).

to Freezin for a Reason. Hot chocolate will also be available for purchase.

❖ Kalypso's Sports Tavern - A key plaza sponsor of the event, will be donating 10 percent of sales from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the day of the jump.

❖ Lake Anne Brew House - will donate a dollar for each pint sold during the event to the cause.

❖ Lake Anne Coffee Shop & Wine Bar - a portion of sale proceeds occurring during the event will be donated to the cause.

❖ Small Change Consignment - continues its tradition, as a sponsor of Freezin for a Reason, to donate hats, gloves & scarves to the jumpers, and to hold a one-day-a-year 1/2 price toy sale on the day of the polar dip, for the families of children who attend Camp Sunshine & the larger community of supporters.

For more information about the event or to register to participate, visit www.freezinforareason.com or become a Facebook Fan (Virginia Polar Dip) and view pictures from previous dips.

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8
open daily through March

Plan Ahead Reston & Herndon

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Father Daughter Dance. 6:30-9 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon. A moment father's will treasure for the rest of their lives and a special night for daughters. This semi-formal event will include an evening of dancing, appetizers, drinks, a photo of the couple, and a keepsake. Daughter may be accompanied by an uncle, grandfather, or a male guardian. \$50

per couple. www.herndon-va.gov.

SUNDAY/FEB. 14

Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center 11888 Market St., Reston. A coach will be ready in front of Talbots for Valentine's Day. restontowncenter.com.

League of Reston Artists Members Share 'From the Heart'

Members of the League of Reston Artists display paintings, drawings, mixed media, photographs and two-dimensional works suitable for wall hanging from Feb. 2 through Feb. 27 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. This show is free and open to the public during the center's regular operating hours. Meet the artists and find out who received awards during the free reception on Saturday, Feb. 25 from noon - 1 p.m. in the Community Room. Visit the LRA website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org to find more information on this and other events.

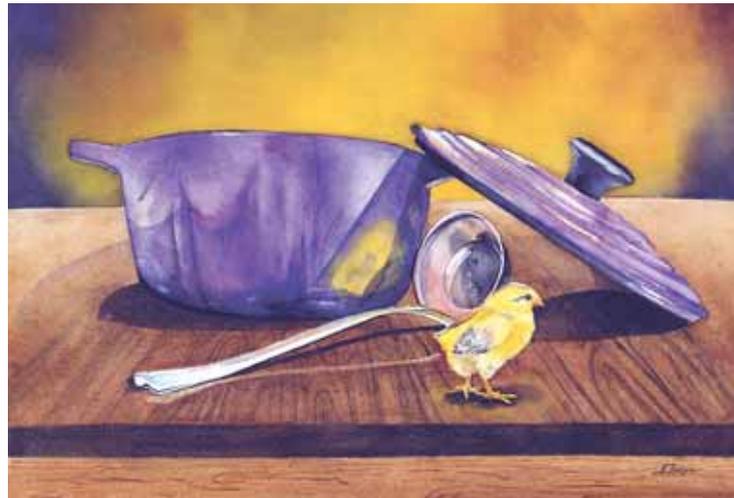


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Katherine Rodgers' watercolor painting, "No Soup Today II," captures a playful scene in vibrant, complementary colors. This painting is part of the "From the Heart" exhibit at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods through Feb. 27.

PenFed Realty Hosts LRA Art and Photography

The League of Reston Artists is showing the oil paintings of Ruth Sievers during January 2017 at the office of PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Dr. Reston. In Feb-

ruary and March, PenFed will host a showing of photographs by Anne Emerson.

The exhibits are free and the office is open to visitors Monday

through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit the LRA web site at www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more information on this and other events.

Photographers Invited to Exhibit in 'RPS Clicks @ USGS'

The Reston Photographic Society, a special-interest group of the League of Reston Artists, seeks photographers to enter their work in the "RPS Clicks @ USGS" exhibit. Entry forms must be com-

pleted online by Feb. 24 and works dropped off on March 1.

The exhibit and entry acceptance will be at the US Geological Survey, National Gallery, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Visit

the LRA website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org to enter works in the exhibit and for more information on this and other events.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will conduct a public information hearing of the Lake Anne Village Center Historic District on February 6, 2017. The meeting begins at 7pm, at the JoAnn Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center 1609-A Washington Plaza Reston, VA 20190. Public comment regarding the proposal will be taken at the time of the hearing or can be sent to: Director Julie Langan, VA Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221. This proposal has been recommended eligible for the Virginia Landmarks and National Registers. This proposal will be presented to the State Review Board and the Board of Historic Resources on March 16, 2017 in Fredericksburg, VA. For a copy of the proposal and/or a boundary map, contact Aubrey VonLindern at 540.868.7029 or aubrey.vonlindern@dhr.virginia.gov.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How do you spell relief? ROLAIDS? Hardly. I spell relief: "Mr. Lourie, your scan remains stable." News, as I'm extremely fond of continuing to say, "I can live with." And despite the fact that I'm ending the previous sentence with a preposition, I'm sure you can appreciate how relieved I am to be 'stable,' and how amazing it is to hear my oncologist characterize me as his "miracle" (not possessive really, more descriptive). So life goes on, for another three months anyway, until my next scheduled diagnostic scan which this time will include an MRI of the abdomen as well as the CT of the lungs to give my oncologist a bit more information to more thoroughly evaluate my condition/status. Having been there and done both previously, the prospect doesn't really concern me. Although it's easy to be a big shot now, three months out, especially after receiving a good report. Perhaps my columns in April will be a bit more realistic — given that my life will once again be on the tomography/resonance-imaging-line.

Planning for the future however begins with yours truly assessing the present and wondering why I was so nervous the days before the scan and of course the two days after, until we saw the oncologist and received the results. I mean it's not as if my life — and quality of life — isn't at stake when these scans are interpreted; nevertheless, stressing about it doesn't help, or should I say, doesn't enhance my prospects. Somehow, integrating/assimilating the stress and anxiety of it all and not giving cancer its due must remain a major part of the psychological solution. I can't give into it emotionally and for some reason, that's exactly what I did this past week. I need to learn from my mistake. Though I'm sure it's understandable under the death-defying circumstances, it's not helpful. It may even be harmful.

I should know better, and I have known better; that's what's peculiar here. Moreover, I'm usually up for the challenge. In fact, I take pride in my ability to take on the challenge. Heck, it's not exactly my first dance with the devil so what's the fuss? The 'fuss' is obvious but fussing over things/outcomes I can't control is not the process that works here. Going with the flow, taking the good with the bad (and vice versa), not putting any part of the cart before the horse meaning: not presuming any negative facts not yet in evidence and most importantly, as the band "Wet Willie" sang in the 1970s, you've got to "Keep on Smilin.'" Humor may not truly be the best medicine, but laughing and joking is hardly the problem.

Cancer is the problem, but sometimes the patient/me is the problem. As Moe Howard said to his brother Shemp in a Three Stooges short entitled "Pardon My Backfire:" "Every time you think you weaken the nation." And though I don't want to weaken my nation/resolve with respect to my underlying disease, occasionally, as perhaps happened this past post-scan week, I get caught up in my own circumstances and think too much, and lose some cohesion and poise. Neither of which a cancer patient can afford to lose. I know — as a cancer patient/survivor — that if I do receive bad/disappointing news, it will be bad enough when I receive it so thinking/worrying that the news will be/could be bad before I actually learn that it's bad is a complete waste of valuable emotional wherewithal. Wherewithal that I'll possibly need later should the news in fact be bad. What my survival has taught me is that even after initially receiving some very discouraging life expectancy statistics for lung cancer patients from my oncologist back in 2009 when I was originally diagnosed, one might still have a future. I'm living proof of that. And it just might be the present that provides the means, justified or not.

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

Seahawks Break School and Meet Records

Senior Devyn Jones and junior Olivia Beckner highlighted record-breaking performance for the South Lakes High School indoor track and field team at Day 1 of the VHSL 6A Conference 6 Championship Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md.

Jones won the 55 meter hurdles in 8.62, breaking the Liberty Conference record of 8.65 set by SLHS alum Aya Abdelhalim in 2012. Senior Abby Wickman, who is doing the hurdles for the first time this year, finished fifth (9.86). The hurdles capped a busy evening for Jones, who finished second in the long jump (16-06.50) and sixth in the high jump (4-06.00). The top six finishers in each event advance to the VHSL Northern Region 6A meet next month.

Beckner captured two records in winning

the 3,200. Her time of 10:47.17 broke the school record of 10:55.84, set by Anne Evans during the 1987-1988 season and the conference mark of 11:02.88 set by Amanda Swaak of Madison High School in 2015. Beckner now has the school records in the 1,000, 1,600 and 3,200 meter runs, all set this season.

Seahawks dominate the sprint events with senior Timiebi Ogbri successfully defending his title in the 55 meters with a state-meet qualifying time of 6.51. Sophomore Stevie Jones ran a 6.73 for fourth. Freshman Rhema Konadu ran a 7.67 in the finals to win the girls 55.

The meet concludes Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md. SLHS is the five-time defending girls champion and has won the boys title eight consecutive years.



Olivia Beckner captured two records in winning the 3,200.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Facelift Proposed for Reston Facilities

FROM PAGE 3

also host to two farmers' markets: the Fairfax County Park Authority's Reston Farmers Market from May to November each year and LARCA's Lake Anne Fall Farmers Market from Nov. 19 to Dec. 17 each year.

"To not realize that the community's needs may have changed over the past 50 years and to consider just rebuilding something exactly how it is seems, to me, like a foolish move," says Romano. "Small changes that can make big impacts don't have to be difficult and they don't have to be expensive."

While it is unclear how much the revitalization of the dock would cost or which organization should pay for improvements, it seems all the community agrees that improvements should be made.

"New development is happening all around us and Lake Anne, in our minds, still needs to make sure that we're staying fresh and adjusting the changing needs of the community in 2017," says Romano.

The RA Board of Directors will discuss this project at its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26, and will vote on whether to advertise a public hearing about the project during its Feb. 23 meeting. This meeting would only gather public input on the proposed improvements from the Fairfax County's Office of Community Revitalization.

3) Lake Newport Soccer Enhancements

Since October, the Reston Soccer Association has been seeking approval from the RA to raise funds to pay for improvements to the Lake Newport Soccer Park on Reston Parkway.

To allow this, the RA would need to hold a communitywide referendum, potentially in the spring or later. While RSA offered to manage fundraising for the project, RA would still need to grant per-

mission for the improvements because the property is on RA land.

"There's a lot of work to be done over the next three months before the board even makes that decision," Butler says.

Since the RSA submitted its preliminary proposal, RA staff have asked the organization to answer more than 100 questions it has about the project.

"We're hoping the community sees this as a net benefit," says Robert Anguizola, president of the RSA.

Anguizola's nonprofit organization does not own any soccer fields, so it uses county facilities and rents out RA parks for its members to play. The two fields at the Lake Newport Soccer Park are the ones his organization uses the most.

"We're hoping to make this our home base," he says. "We're the primary users of the park and we want to make a contribution to the community. We know the adjustments will be for the benefit of our members."

His preliminary proposal before community input calls for converting the grass fields into synthetic turf fields using plant-derived infill.

The RA and the RSA have contributed thousands of dollars to make repairs to the damaged fields, according to Anguizola.

"Turf is going to expand the number of hours that those fields can be used and the quality and safety will be much higher than the grass fields," he says. "Because of the enthusiasm for soccer and the density of Reston, the grass fields get a lot of use and abuse to the point where it's very difficult, if not impossible, to maintain."

His organization would also like to install lights, bathrooms, a clubhouse, concession stands and a seating area.

"We are very open to working with the community to consider other amenities for the park," he says.

Anguizola's ideas include a small playground for young children and a running trail.

Very rough and preliminary costs for the improvements are estimated to cost more than \$2 million. Because of this, the project would likely be done in phases.

"We can't afford to do the entire project all at once," Anguizola says.

Butler hopes to work with the RSA so that an updated presentation can be given to RA's board in March. Directors will then discuss and determine if they want to send the proposal to referendum.

"It's really a fact-finding mission right now," Butler says.

4) Lake Newport Dredging Project

The dredging of Lake Newport began on Tuesday, Jan. 17, with deployment of equipment and closing of specific areas surrounding the Lake House, the Lake Newport tennis facility and adjoining trails.

Reston Association is working with Lake Services, Inc. to dredge the accumulated sediment from the main coves of the lake. Dredging will not occur at the shoreline edge or within 5 feet of any dock structure. RA anticipates removing approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material at the cost of approximately \$50 per cubic yard. The project is budgeted for \$257,330.

Routine dredging is part of RA's lakes maintenance program, which helps to extend the life of the lakes. As lakes age, they eventually fill in through sedimentation. Sedimentation occurs as material from the surrounding watershed accumulate in the water. Those materials include soil from stream erosion, construction sites and unstable slopes, in addition to road sand, leaves and debris from trees, street gutters and storm sewers.

The staging area will be near the Lake House property. Sediment will be removed from the lake and placed in trucks, which will be hauled to a disposal site in Chantilly.

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Langley junior Andrew Derminassian #32 goes for a jump shot.



Head Coach for Langley Scott Newman and assistant coaches Andrew Hypnar and Billy Wilkerson discussing plays with their team at the end of the first quarter.

South Lakes Secures Narrow Win Over Langley for a Second Time

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

It was a close and exciting game between the South Lakes Seahawks and the Langley Saxons on Thursday night.

“The win was impressive after our loss against Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria a few nights ago,” said head coach and assistant athletic director at South Lakes, Andrew Duggan.

South Lakes had superior ball control and possession for most of the game, the bonus in their favor in the last quarter helped them in a tight spot, and they came out the winning team.

Both teams were tied right until the last few seconds of the game when South Lakes scored again in the bonus, and Langley couldn’t get another basket in the last few seconds before the buzzer. South Lakes’ record now stands at 11 wins and 5 losses.

This was the second time that South Lakes prevailed against Langley. South Lakes beat Langley in the first round by 11 points, 68 to 57. Despite the optimism of Langley’s head coach, Scott Newman, his team wasn’t



South Lakes sophomore Cameron Savage #5 dribbles around a Langley defenseman.

able to pull off a win Thursday night.

Langley’s record now sits at 8 and 8.

Langley’s head coach Scott Newman said

that his team was a little slow to start off the season. “We lost 4 games at the buzzer, these were close, and we think we’ve found a formula that was working for us,” he said. But his goal for his team was improvement over the course of the season. And, it was a close game this time.

“I am thrilled,” said Newman about the performance of his team so far this season. “I told my players there are going to be teams that are good fast and plateau and we will improve,” Newman said.

Some notable players from Langley’s starting lineup this season are senior Chas Battaglia, 5’10” guard, senior Sami El-Rafey 6’6” forward, and junior Colter Carton, 5’11” guard.

For the Saxons, El-Rafey had an outstanding night in terms of scoring with 15 points, followed by Carton with 11 points and Battaglia with 10 points. El Raffey also led his team in rebounds with 10 total followed closely by junior Andrew Derminassian, 6’4” forward, who had 9 rebounds.

On South Lakes team. much of their start-

ing lineup aren’t seniors.

“Our point guard, sophomore Cameron Savage, started all of the games last year,” said head coach Duggan.

Seahawks players, junior Emmanuel Aghayere, 6’5” forward, sophomore Cameron Savage 5’10” guard, and junior Damon Johnson 5’10” guard all have at least one more year with their team before graduating. Johnson and Savage will likely be playing basketball on the college level.

Even with a winning record, Duggan insists that his team didn’t play as well as they could have against Langley in the first round.

Senior Marcus Cherry, 6’4” guard was the lead scorer for the Seahawks with 12 points followed closely by junior Emmanuel Aghayere with 11 points and 11 rebounds, and junior Andrew Powers, 6’4” with 9 points.

“We were focused on playing better basketball, on our defense and rebounds, you know the little things,” said Duggan. “This team plays hard as snot.”



South Lakes sophomore Brian Adams #4 looks for the pass.



Langley senior Chas Battaglia #2 shoots over South Lakes guard Damon Johnson.