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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Heated Debate About Lake House Review

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Olivia Beckner Finishes Second in New York Race

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ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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.



NEWS



PHOTO BY JIM RYAN

From left are Lion Steve Reber, chairman; Ruth Miller, George Mason High School; Robert Kichenbauer, Washington Lee High School; Ashley Andoua, James Madison High School; Lauren Spar, South Lakes High School; Jasper de Boor, Washington Lee High School; Rebecca Williamson, Dominion High School; and Lion Patrick McCann, Reston Lions Club president.

Reston Lions Announce Music Competition Winners

Fourteen students participated in the James A. Bland Music Competition, co-sponsored by the Reston Lions Club and the Reston Community Center, held at the Hunters Woods Center, on Feb. 7.

Winners were: Vocal competition: Ruth Miller, first place; Rebecca Williamson, second place and Lauren Spar, third place. Instru-

ment Competition: Ashley Ondoua, first place; Jasper de Boor, second place and Robert Kirchenbauer, third place. Judges were Lydia Kriso, Gretel Von Pischke, Katie Katinas and Leslie Luxemburg. First place winners received \$100. cash award, second place, \$75. and third place \$50. First place winners advance to District and State Contests.

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Heated Debate About Lake House Review

Reston Association pushes back against accusations.

BY FALON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Reston community vented their frustrations and concerns about an independent review of the Reston Association that is underway during a community input session at RA headquarters on Thursday, Feb. 9.

The review is investigating the RA's processes during the referendum, purchase and renovation of its Lake House property, which went over budget and has yielded revenue shortfalls ever since it was purchased in July 2015 for \$2.6 million.

The RA board of directors hired StoneTurn Group, LLC on Thursday, Jan. 26, to complete the investigation by Tuesday, Feb. 28, for up to \$45,000.

Three individuals who are involved in the review were present to collect input: Deirdre Flaherty, partner and co-founder of the StoneTurn Group; Mike Sanio, Reston Association Board vice president and at-large director; and Eric Carr, chair of the RA's Tetra (Lake House) Review Committee.

Carr's committee, which was formed in



Deirdre Flaherty of StoneTurn Group and Eric Carr, chair of the Reston Association Tetra Review Committee, take questions from RA members about the investigation.

July 2016, comprises three RA members and the four members of the RA Board Governance Committee, including Sanio. It was tasked with recommending firms to the RA Board to carry out the investigation. Sanio and Carr are now intermediaries for StoneTurn Group during their investigation.

Flaherty was using the public input to inform the work plan of her company's investigation, which had not been completed at the time of the meeting — 19 days before it was due.

"I don't know what we're going to do yet," Flaherty said during the meeting. "That's

what we're in the process of figuring out and exactly how we're going to look at this. We certainly understand from the RFP documents the general areas of your concern, but this is your opportunity to speak and be heard as we go through this process."

While the intention of the investigation is to prevent the RA from ever mishandling a capital project in the same manner again, most of the members in attendance emphasized their interest in learning who was responsible for the misuse of RA money so that they could be held responsible.

When Ed Abbott, coordinator of the



Reston neighbors Cathy Waters, left, and Joe Toussaint, right, vent their frustration that the Reston Association has control of the publication of the independent investigation's report.

Reston Recall group, asked Flaherty if her report would identify individual wrongdoing or misconduct, she replied by saying, "The scope of our work isn't to do that right now."

Flaherty also said she does not know whether members of the board of directors would disclose any pertinent information from executive sessions that were not open to the public.

"I'm a little astonished, Mike [Sanio], that you made the comment earlier that you want to know what happened because as

SEE LAKE HOUSE, PAGE 10

Reston Hospital Offers Advanced Spinal Surgery Options

Reston Hospital Center is the first in the region to add the Mazor surgical assurance platform to its award-winning regional spinal surgery program. The Mazor X system combines pre-operative planning tools and analytics with intra-operative guidance.

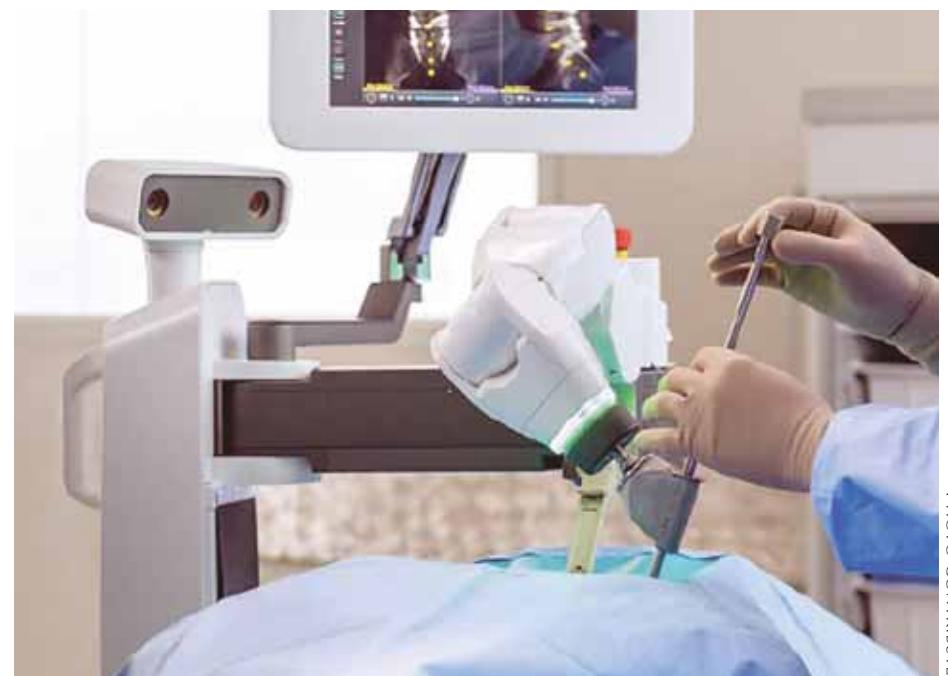
"We chose the Mazor X system to provide our surgeons with the highest level of pre-operative assessment and intraoperative precision," said Dr. Raymond Makhoul, chief medical officer at Reston Hospital Center. "As spinal surgery has evolved, more focus has been placed on minimizing trauma to the body during surgery and expediting a return to function through the use of minimally invasive techniques, and this is where Mazor X can deliver its greatest value."

Minimally-invasive procedures can mean less pain, less blood loss, smaller incisions, shorter hospitalizations and shorter recovery time for patients. Smaller incisions usually pose a challenge to surgeons due to the limited view of the anatomy. The Mazor X system helps to overcome this challenge with a 3D comprehensive surgical plan and analytics that gives the surgeon information before the surgery starts.

On Feb. 1, members of the spine team at Reston Hospital Center performed the first case using the Mazor X system. Dr. Christopher Good, Dr. Tom Schuler, and Dr. Colin Haines of the Virginia Spine Institute completed the first successful case in the Mid-Atlantic.

"I am very excited that the Mazor X technology is now available to our patients. We are proud to have performed not only the first; but, the most robotic spine surgeries in the Mid-Atlantic region. This technology allows us to offer robotic surgery to our patients both for minimally invasive spine surgery and scoliosis reconstruction," said Dr. Christopher Good, spine surgeon at Reston Hospital Center. "Our research is showing that robotic surgery can decrease radiation to patients in the operating room as well as improve accuracy of surgery while decreasing patient complications. The new Mazor X system represents the future of robotic spine surgery. Inevitably, it will lead to many future breakthroughs — combining robotic surgery with intraoperative spinal navigation and increasing the number and types of surgeries we can do robotically," said Good.

Dr. Christopher Good, Dr. Collin Haines, Dr. Michael Hasz, Dr. Donald Hope, Dr. Sean



On Feb. 1, members of the spine team at Reston Hospital Center performed the first case using the Mazor X system.

Jebraili Dr. Jae Lim, Dr. Thomas Mazahery, Dr. Ben Nguyen, Dr. Thomas Schuler, Dr. Brian Subach, Dr. Druv Pateder, and Dr. Joseph Watson, make up the spine team at Reston Hospital Center.

"As a leader in spine surgery, acquiring the Mazor X was a logical step for us to take" said John Deardorff, CEO of Reston Hospital Center. "Our Institute for Robotic Surgery is the most comprehensive in the

Mid-Atlantic region. Remaining at the forefront of surgical advancements is key to consistently providing our patients with the highest quality care. Our analysis of surgical guidance systems showed that the Mazor X system would further enable our surgeons to achieve the best possible patient outcomes."

For more information about Reston Hospital Center visit restonhospital.com.

OPINION

Ending Gerrymandering Important to Region

Efforts appear dead for this session, but elections later this year provide new opportunities.

While three bills that could have reined in the runaway gerrymandering in Virginia made it through the Virginia Senate to crossover, they died on Tuesday morning in a House subcommittee, despite some vocal Republican support.

In Virginia, Democrats have won every statewide election since 2010, and notably Barack Obama won the state in 2008 by more than 52 percent of the vote. Many of these victories have been narrow. In 2009, Republicans won Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General by strong margins.

EDITORIAL It is reasonable, given these results, to expect that representation at the state level would be approximately even, with either Republicans or Democrats holding a small advantage. Instead, Republicans control the House of Delegates 66 to 34, and the Virginia Senate 21 to 19.

There is little competition for these seats as a result.

According to OneVirginia2021, an advocacy group for ending gerrymandering, 56 candi-

dates in the House of Delegates faced no real competition in the last general election in 2013, with 22 Democrats and 34 Republicans facing no major-party challenger. In the end, only two seats changed parties.

These same lawmakers are set to redraw the boundaries for state legislative and congressional districts after the 2020 census, and the just-killed proposed constitutional amendments would have required that these not be motivated by partisan politics. By far the best approach would be to turn the process over to a non-partisan commission to draw boundaries in the best interests of Virginia citizens.

One of the proposals, cosponsored by Sen. Jill Vogel (R) and Sen. Janet Howell (D), passed the Senate 31-9, but died in the House subcommittee on a 5-2 vote.

It matters more here in Northern Virginia. Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, which means that localities have only the power specifically given to them by the General Assembly. It means that the economic engines of the state in Northern Virginia provide most of the financial wherewithal but citizens in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County are often unable

to govern themselves as they wish because of control by a far more conservative General Assembly.

Real change starts locally. Anyone seeking change should tune in for this year's elections in Virginia, including all the seats in the General Assembly, plus Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. Every voter will choose one Virginia Senator and one member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Nonpartisan redistricting could support the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

In 2016

Hillary Clinton (D) 1,981,473 (49.75%); Donald Trump (R) 1,769,443 (44.43%)

In 2013:

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389 Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257 Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

In 2012:

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522 Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS

Voting Rights Under Attack

To the Editor:

Unsatisfied with the existing identification requirements to vote in Virginia, on Feb. 1 Republicans in Virginia's House of Delegates voted to make it even harder to vote in state elections. If this were to pass, in order to register to vote in Virginia's state elections, Virginians would need to prove citizenship by providing a birth certificate, a passport, or naturalization documents. This is part of the continued Trump-led Republican effort to attack the very soul of our democracy by raising concerns about non-existent voter fraud and then pretending to fight it.

These restrictions will not stop voter fraud because that fraud does not exist. What the restrictions will do is send Virginians rooting through boxes of decades-old files containing birth certificates and passports. Passports are expensive, and birth certificates are hard to obtain, especially if you were born somewhere outside the U.S. These restrictions will keep ordinary, every day Virginians from voting to choose their representatives.

Republicans are doing their best to keep Virginians from the polls, but they cannot keep us from the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

Balancing the Budget

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



Although the "short sessions" of the General Assembly held on the odd-numbered years are about two weeks less in length than the regular session in the even-numbered years because they do not consider a biennium budget, the fact is that the budget is adjusted at every session of the General Assembly. Revenue projections that are made over a couple of years time frame almost always need to be adjusted. Revenues come over or under projections necessitating corresponding changes to the budget. Recession level declines like that in 2008 required severe budget reductions. The economic recovery has been slower than in the past resulting in some tweaking being needed every year. The Commonwealth operates on a balanced budget with funds going into a rainy day fund when economic growth is strong, and the fund being used to smooth out declines from loss of revenue.

The House and Senate approved different versions of a revised budget for the next fiscal year without prolonged debate that has been a part of these deliberations for many years.

The Governor presented a revised budget that brought the next year into balance and funded some high priority items upon which there was bipartisan agreement. Differences do remain that a conference committee will iron out over the remaining weeks of the session.

Highlights of the budget that will remain after the conference committee does its work include important new funding for mental health services. Although the needs in mental health have been recognized for a long time, it took advocates many years

and the suicide of a senator's son to finally get agreement on funding critically needed services. An important aspect of the new services will be to get mentally ill persons out of jails where they have found themselves in recent years when they acted out and there was no other place for them to go.

State employees will finally be getting a raise after many years of waiting.

The situation has become increasingly desperate with a high turnover rate. Teachers who are employed by local school boards will not be getting a direct appropriation for a raise from the state, but hopefully the modest increase to localities can be used in part to fund teacher pay raises that are likewise long overdue.

Although the action in the short session on the budget will get us through the next fiscal year, there are long-term structural issues that remain — particularly in funding education. While the division between state and local funding had historically been 60 to 40 percent, the actual division in recent years has been closer to 40 percent state and 60 percent local.

The result has been that increasing costs have fallen on local property taxpayers. Virginians like to brag about their low per capita state taxes at \$2,275, 36th lowest among the states. Something overlooked is the fact that per capita local taxes in Virginia are \$1,928 or 15th highest among the states.

We are going to balance the budget for the short-run this session, but we need to do a lot more work about more fairly balancing the budget for the long term.

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OPINION

Investigation of RA and the Tetra Deal — Finally

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT
PRODUCER/HOST

After months of delay and obstruction, Reston Association finally signed a contract to review the RA internal decision to acquire the Tetra property; the community referendum and acquisition of it; and, management and accounting for its renovation and operation. And, perhaps most important, the independent consulting firm, Stone Turn, is to recommend safeguards and improvements in RA policies and procedures to prevent the recurrence of a Tetra.

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE Getting to a contract was not easy. Despite the scandal surrounding the Tetra purchase and skyrocketing cost overruns to renovate it, the RA Board resisted community demands for an independent review. When they caved to the pressure and selected a contractor (MediaWorld) who offered to perform the professional services *pro bono* (for \$1), the Board negotiator filled the draft contract with enough punitive clauses to cause MediaWorld volunteers to withdraw their offer. The RA Board quickly found \$45K somewhere, and offered a gentler contract to Stone Turn, the second place qualified bidder.

On Feb. 9, a Stone Turn consultant met with about 40 interested RA members to collect input for the investigation. The meeting was chaired by RA Board VP Mike Sanio. RA member Eric Carr, who chaired the contractor selection committee, served as facilitator — not an easy task. The members were frustrated, expressing a general lack of confidence in the RA Board. They wanted assurances that the consultant was truly independent and that the community would get their “unredacted” findings. To see the forum for yourself, google “Stone Turn Community Meeting 2-9-2017” on YOUTUBE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4 phones. Unless you are currently holding your birth certificate or passport in your hands, I recommend picking up your phone and calling your state senator before they try to take that away too.

Kenneth Bledsoe, Reston

Turned Away by New Parking System

To the Editor:

Below is an email I sent to Reston Town Center after using the new parking system today for the first time.

I used your parking system today for the first time. I must say it is the most absurd and difficult parking experience I have ever encountered. I feel sorry for the girl who works there trying to explain how to use it. She was helpful in spite of your flawed system. It took me 10 minutes to enter my credit card information and email and try

Having viewed much of the meeting, it left me with concerns about what I heard from respected fellow RA members. One concern is that while they made it clear that Tetra was a terrible deal for the membership, they spent a lot of time and energy making strong, over the top in my view, allegations of malfeasance, in addition to suggestions of unethical actions and incompetence. The consultant’s job is a thorough review of RA’s management and accounting processes of RA in the Tetra matter, including citations of management errors, lack of proper accountability, and ethical lapses. It is not a criminal investigation — for which there is no basis to my knowledge. The forum time might have been better spent identifying problems and sources of information for the consultants.

A second concern I have is that the rhetoric has gotten so heated and exaggerated that confidence in the Reston Association is being eroded to the extent that the community may trust very little this Board or their successors say for a long time. That would be unfortunate for the community and will impede our ability to get essential things done. This may sound odd coming from this person who has sometimes been a harsh critic of this RA Board. But, if you look at my record further back, you’ll find that for many years I served as a champion of RA and the good work they do.

I believe we need to give the Stone Turn consultants time to do the job they are paid and qualified to do. If you have constructive input, give it to them directly. Then, let’s see their findings — due in 3-4 weeks. I hope we’ll get sound action recommendations deserving of community support.

Next are crucial RA Board elections, the chance for change of direction. Look carefully at the candidates, six for an At-Large seat, two for Hunters Woods, and two for North Point. There are some exceptional ones who need your votes.

to guess how long I was going to be staying there. When I came back from the meeting I was late thanks to your parking system, there was a frustrated lady asking the poor girl what’s the easiest way was to pay for parking. I told the people at Potomac River Running that I would not be doing any races at Reston Town Center if it meant I had to come to that location for packet pickup or any use of your parking garage. Perhaps you could look at Northern Virginia Community College or George Mason or Reston Hospital Center or the Hyatt at the Town Center or Dulles Airport to figure out how to design a parking system that people can use. Being able to get a ticket with your parking space and pay when you leave isn’t a hard concept to figure out.

It is a shame some good restaurants and businesses at Reston Town Center won’t be getting my business due to the complicated parking system.

John Dever, CPA, Reston



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Celebrating Black History Month

Educators say these lessons are urgently needed in current racial climate.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Even though Elavie Ndura knows that it is a daunting challenge to help children grasp the entirety of the African American experience in the shortest month of the year, each February she and other educators give it their best effort. This year, they feel it's more important than ever.

"With all of the racial experiences we're having these days, it's critical that children know their history and are not basing their knowledge on only what they see on television or what they hear from their friends," said Elavie Ndura, Ed.D., professor of education at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research shows that children who understand their histories do better in school and in society, so it's critical that families teach their children about their history."

Ndura believes that the current racial climate in the U.S. gives this year's Black History Month additional significance. A study released last month by the Pew Research Center shows that among Americans, 61 percent of blacks, 58 percent of Hispanics and 45 percent of whites say that race relations in the United States are generally bad.

Lewis advises making a trip to a local bookstore or library to find books that offer a glimpse of African American history and suggests that parents begin with books on subjects that interest their children. "[Parents] may start with readings on sports, or science, or biographies of the accomplishments and hardships of individuals who persisted throughout history to make a difference," she said. "Parents can ... select books by black authors and illustrators and then take the time to read the story together, discuss the pictures, and ask questions about what the characters are feeling and experiencing."

Other ideas include exploring music with roots in African American history such as ragtime, jazz, gospel and blues, making a timeline of major events that occurred during the Civil Rights Movement, and reading speeches from civil rights leaders and then helping children write their own speech about what they are inspired to change in the world. Such activities can open a natural discussion and need not be complicated to be effective, says Lewis.

"Parents are their children's first educators," said Lewis. "It is important for parents to help their children understand the experiences of other children who are not like them because it builds empathy and a deeper sense of community."

One roadblock to such honest conversations, cautions Petin, is a discomfort with discussions of racial differences. "Let's be frank, some white Americans who are politically and socially conservative become

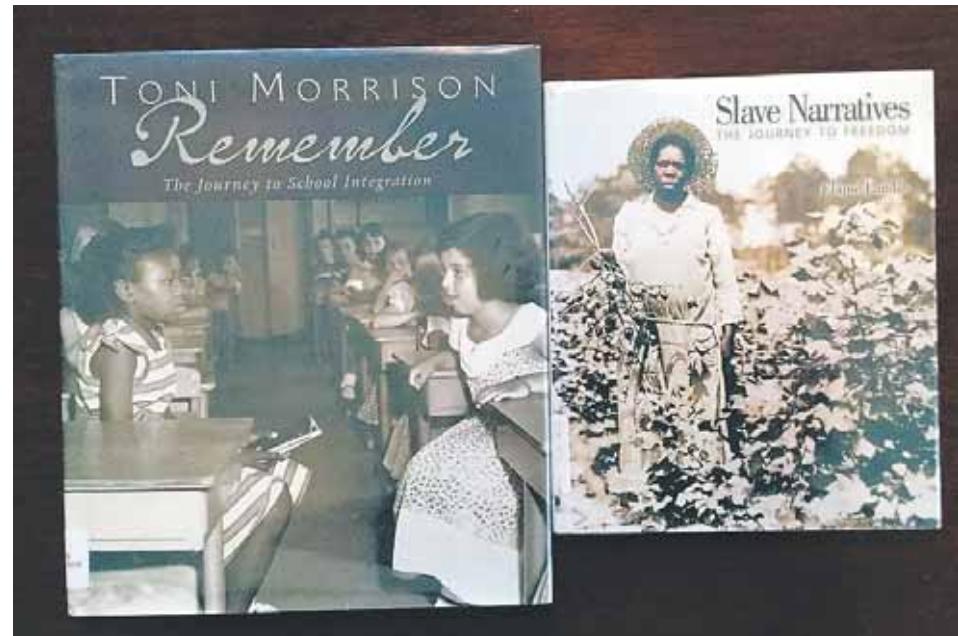


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION
Books that explore African American experiences are on display at libraries and bookstores during Black History Month.

noticeably uncomfortable with the topic of race, and therefore find difficulty with Black History Month," he said. "Yet, Black History Month — similar to the Black Lives Matter movement — does not express superiority over others. Both the month of celebration and socio-political movement are forms of resistance to deliberate attempts to conceal the worthiness of Black or African-heritage people in this country."

Some people "may attack Black History Month and Black Lives Matter as political correctness and identity politics, but I would argue that they are not seeing the humanity in both efforts," continued Petin. He emphasized the importance of taking a purposeful approach to teaching children about black history. "I think that all parents must intentionally search for, study, and celebrate those who are on the margins, living in the shadows, perceived as voiceless, and regarded as invisible. Too often, black Americans were those marginal, shadowed, voiceless, and invisible people. All parents should be honest about that, and should have confidence in the U.S. only being great when they and their children educate themselves on this country's history in more inclusive terms."

Schools often play a significant role in the month's



PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLIS SCHOOL
Bullis School fifth graders Elizabeth Martin and Will Simpson look on as their documentaries about the civil rights movement were presented to the school.

"Teaching the history of Black or African-heritage peoples this month ... is necessary to starting difficult conversations about ... current race relations ... and social inequalities."

— Mika'il A. Petin, Ph.D.,
George Mason University

activities. Students at the Bullis School in Potomac, Md., for example, attend a Black History Month assembly each February. This year's event was led by several students who shared their thoughts, essays and other projects on a variety of topics. "Diverse literature is always a great idea," added Allison Ewing, chair of the social studies department at Bullis.

"Twenty-eight days of teachable moments" is one way that Petin characterizes Black History Month. "It is never too early to start preparing your kids for a world that is increasingly more connected and shrinking," he said. "When all parents teach their children how to develop skill sets to understand, value, empathize, and celebrate those who may be different than them, the children are better prepared to function in the world."

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The Pet Connection will publish on February 22, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

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Send entertainment announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

THROUGH MARCH 5

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Various times at the ArtInsights Gallery of Film and Contemporary Art, 11921 Market St., Reston Town Center. An exhibit of romantic couples from Disney and Star Wars as created by official studio artists. Call 703-478-0778 for more.

FEB. 17 - FEB. 19

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11 a.m. Feb. 17 through 11 p.m. Feb. 19 American Tap Room, 1811 Library Street, Reston Town Center. Watch All Star Weekend festivities each day, including great food and drink features. 703-834-0400 americantaproom.com

Swing Dance

8:30-midnight, at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road. Beginner swing lesson with Sue and Gary 8:30. \$15. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Using Adobe Lightroom to Organize, Edit and Share Your Photography

with Mary Louise Raves 1-5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Over the course of two days, Mary Louise Raves of Bella Vista Photography, will concentrate on the essentials of Adobe Lightroom's main modules: Library, Develop, and the output modules of Print, Web, Slideshow and Book. Participants will learn how to organize images so they can be easily found, quickly identify and optimize their images for tone, and more. \$225. 703-956-9560. events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event

Hometown Habitat Film

2-4 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Free. Visit www.herndon-va.gov for more.

MONDAY/FEB. 20

Bob Brown Knight Time Puppet

Show. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Starring King Oliver and his Queen Elizabeth. \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Visit www.herndon-va.gov for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 21

Seamus Kennedy Concert

6 p.m. at Amphora, 1151 Elen St. Folk club concert. \$10 Members, \$11 Non-members. Call 703-435-2402 or visit www.restonherndonfolkclub.com.

Floral Design Class

7 p.m. at the Mayflower, 11959 Reston Town Center. Learn the basics of floral design: proper use of floral tools, history on botanicals, flower care, floral and greens identification, color coordination, and design techniques. \$250 includes bouquet. Visit www.mayflowersreston.com or call 703-709-1200 for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 22

Meet Me at the Movies

10 a.m. at Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Senior Movie Day at Bow Tie Cinemas Movie is "Sully." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Email Ashleigh@reston.org or call 703-435-6530 for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 24

Family Passport to Fun

6:30-9 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Performance by the Herndon High School Drumline, gym games, arts and crafts projects, bingo or play in the pool. \$2. Visit www.herndon-va.gov for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Cooking Class at Il Fornaio

noon-2 p.m. at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Includes three-course luncheon with wine and recipes. \$55. Email banquets.reston@ilfo.com or call 703-437-5544.

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

Floral Design Class

7 p.m. at the Mayflower, 11959 Reston Town Center. Learn the basics of floral

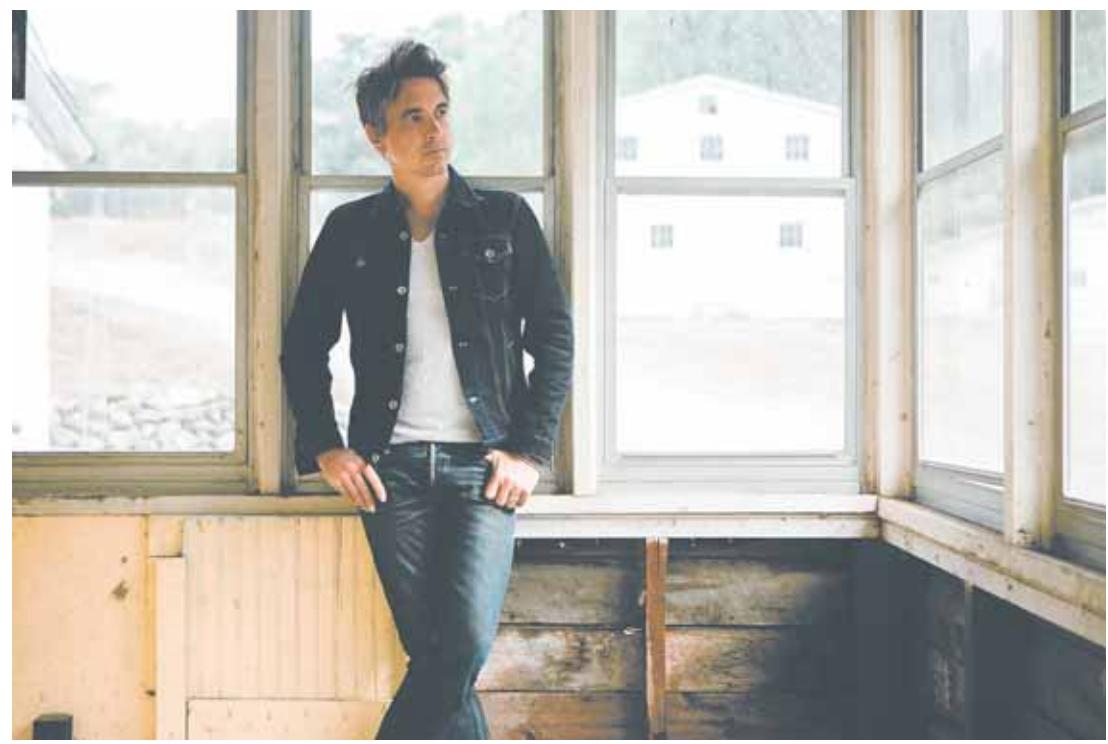


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Live Concert

Luke Brindley of Reston, made the cut in the Folk/Acoustic category and is now a finalist to perform in a live concert performed by the competition's finalists on Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Tickets \$10 and \$15 and available at www.bethesda.org. The winner will get a \$10,000 grand prize.

design: proper use of floral tools, history on botanicals, flower care, floral and greens identification, color coordination, and design techniques. \$250 includes bouquet. Visit www.mayflowersreston.com or call 703-709-1200 for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 3

Songwriter's Competition

7:30 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Luke Brindley, of Reston, made the cut in the Folk/Acoustic category of the the third annual Bernard/Ebb Songwriting competition and is now a finalist to perform in a live concert performed by the competition's finalists. Tickets are \$10 and \$15, at www.bethesda.org.

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

Some Things I Can't Explain

Featuring Artist Rahshia Sawyer. On Exhibit through Sunday, February 11, 2017. My work contrasts a Daedalian 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. [www.artspaceherndon.com/ev/things-can't-explain/](http://artspaceherndon.com/ev/things-can't-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. 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](http://artspaceherndon.com)

CUT Exhibition at GRACE Through February 18 Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street, #103, Reston Town Center. See a free exhibit by six artists. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Swing Dance

On Friday, Feb. 17, the band "Bad Influence" is highlighting a night of swing dancing from 8:30-midnight, at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road. Beginner swing lessons with Sue and Gary at 8:30. \$15. Visit www.gottaswing.com for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

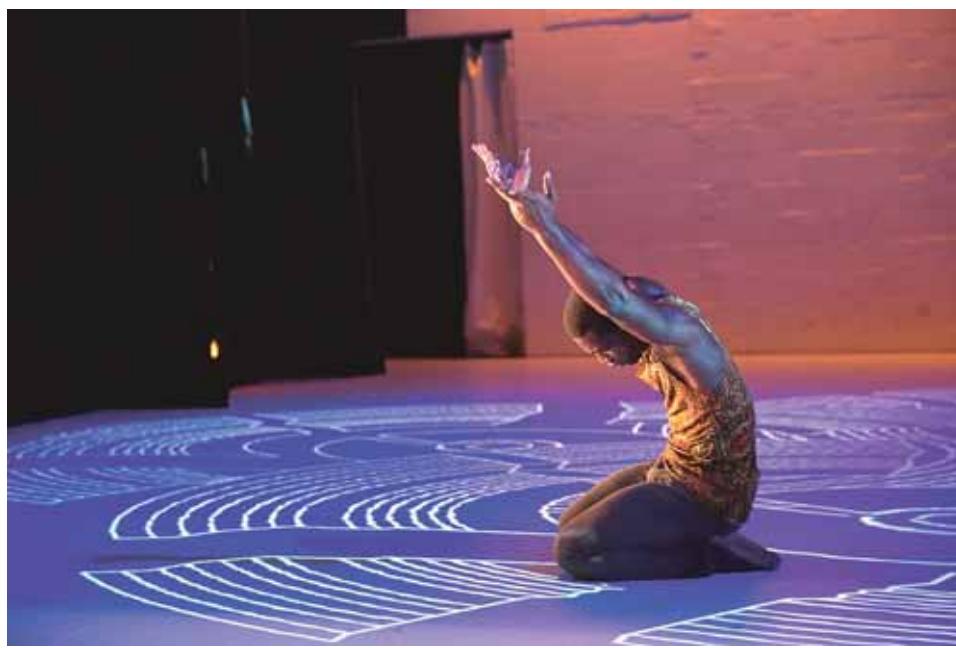


PHOTO BY JONATHAN HSU/COURTESY RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER

"What's Going On" at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, Feb. 22.

Marvin Gaye's Soulful Music Takes CenterStage

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Fans of Marvin Gaye's passionate songs and rich voice will have the opportunity to see his masterworks brought to life through dance and movement at Reston's CenterStage.

"What's Going On" is to be an evening length performance featuring modern, jazz and West African dance "meant to provoke thoughtfulness and spark conversations" about social change according to Paul Douglas Michnewics, director, arts and events, Reston Community Center.

"The Reston audience is very familiar with Marvin Gaye and his message resonates today," said Michnewicz.

Whether Gaye's plaintive yearning for love, such as "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," or his 1971 social justice song "What's Going On," with its lyric "only love can conquer hate," his emotional music will power the choreography developed by DC area creative artists Vincent E. Thomas, Ralph Glenmore and Sylvia Soumah.

For the CenterStage performance, Reston's own Gin Dance will also be performing with its very own distinctive movement styles.

The audience can expect nine dancers and music that are "a cauldron of Modern, African, Jazz dance. There are nine performers (including myself) and we will be joined by guest dancers of Reston's Gin Dance," said Vincent E. Thomas.

"We decided to create an evening length work to the music of Marvin Gaye that explores the same themes as Marvin's music: love, life and social justice."

—Carla Perlo,
director, Dance Place

give a solid glimpse of the life, love, and social consciousness of Marvin Gaye."

This will not be "a performance where one just sits and watches...you will be mentally and physically engaged, on the edge of your seat wanting to join in on stage," said Thomas. "I want the audience to be engaged on many levels from the start. The audience will laugh, cry, reminisce, dance, hum/sing, tap foot, snap or clap, be challenged, and empowered."

"What's Going On' is timely...it is timeless...it is now." added Thomas.

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SPORTS



Beckner, the school record holder in the 1,000, 1,600 and 3,200-meter runs, finished the race in 4:51.27.

Olivia Beckner Finishes Second in New York Race

Olivia Beckner, a junior on the South Lakes High School track and field team, finished second in the girls mile at the 110th New York Millrose Games here on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The Millrose Games are the world's longest running indoor track and field competition.

Beckner, the school record holder in the 1,000, 1,600 and 3,200-meter runs, finished the race in 4:51.27.

Her time was not only a personal best and school record, it's also the fourth fastest time by a high school girl in the U.S. this season.

Abbe Goldstein of Germantown Academy won the event at the Armory Track and Field Center in 4:49.06.

"I kind of let her go with two laps to go and I think that was a mistake," Beckner said after the race. "I had a pretty aggressive start but I needed to stick with the girl (Goldstein). I have to just be competitive and don't be afraid to go after it."

South Lakes will compete in the 6A North Region Indoor Track and Field Championship this Wednesday at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md.



Olivia Beckner, a junior on the South Lakes High School track and field team, finished second in the girls mile at the 110th New York Millrose Games here on Saturday, Feb. 11.

10 ♦ RESTON CONNECTION ♦ FEBRUARY 15-21, 2017

Lake House Review Due By the End of February

FROM PAGE 3

far as I can figure, you were on the board that was privy to all those executive sessions none of us were at," Tammi Petrine, co-chair of the Reston 20/20 Committee, said during the meeting. "So how you don't know what happened is stunning to me."

AT THE BEGINNING of the meeting, Sanio said: "I served on the board pretty much over the whole period where this transpired. I was very much involved. I am very interested in knowing exactly what had occurred and what it is that we can put in place in order to ensure that this doesn't happen again in the future. I very much advocated for an independent review. I'm very, very pleased that StoneTurn has agreed to work with us to do this. I'm pleased that they're working against a very, very tight timeline."

Multiple RA members also demanded that StoneTurn's report be made public without being altered by the RA.

"Of course the final report has to be available to the membership," Dennis Hays, at-large director of the Reston Citizens Association, said during the meeting. "We're the ones paying for your fee. We're the ones who elect our representatives ... We do expect an independent review that is published widely at the end."

StoneTurn will do the work and Sanio and Carr will receive the draft report to review and present to the RA Board, according to Sanio.

Sanio plans to recommend to publish it unchanged.

"My intention is to have the Board make that report from StoneTurn available to the public without any edits, as prepared by StoneTurn," Sanio said. "The Board can ultimately decide what it wants to do, but I can tell you right now as a member of the Board and the point of contact on this, I'm recommending that this be made available to the public once we've received an acceptable copy."

Carr will not advocate for anything less either.

"I'm not editing or altering anything," Carr said. "In my mind, that would be unacceptable."

Sanio chided the audience for their heated charges and comments implying otherwise.

"We have been encouraged to have the consultant reach out to anyone that they believe is appropriate in order to get the answers that they need and up until now, I have received no resistance in going forward," he said. "And let me speak personally, I've heard lots of accusations, I've read accusations, some of them unfounded. And I think for those that serve on the board as volunteers, you put those individuals that commit untold hours in your service into a very, very difficult position and I would urge you to reflect on that."

Terry Maynard, co-chair of the Reston 20/



BY FALCON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Eric Carr, chair of the Reston Association Tetra Review Committee, explains the agenda to the nearly 30 participants who attended at the beginning of the community input session.

20 Committee, fired back.

"Your board got us where we are," Maynard said. "So, please don't ask us for our sympathy and respect when you've earned what you've got."

Audience members also alleged that the contract negotiations between the RA and the first consultant the Tetra Review Committee recommended, MediaWorld Ventures, was not treated fairly because its draft contract was substantially more punitive and restrictive.

"The contracts were essentially the same," Sanio said. "And I had asked that question of our attorney because I knew that this would be an issue and it would be just frankly inappropriate if we were negotiating with different terms and conditions with MediaWorld than we were with StoneTurn."

THE TETRA REVIEW COMMITTEE made its initial recommendation back in September 2016. Even though months' worth of negotiations with MediaWorld fell through in January, the RA is committed to keeping its original timeline of having the investigation complete by the end of the month.

This worried some members of the audience, who voiced concern that it would be rushed or go over the \$45,000 budget. Even Carr is worried.

"I am nervous about the scope and schedule," Carr said. "It's very quick."

If the review does not answer the member's concerns, the public outcry over the Lake House will not be over."

"And we'll have wasted \$45,000," he said. "My function here is to make sure [StoneTurn] can get it done."

Members of the Reston community remain skeptical.

"I'm not counting on the board of directors to make any changes on their own initiative," Joe Toussaint, RA member, said during the meeting. "They're going to have to be told and it's not necessarily going to come from [StoneTurn]. It's going to come from the community at large."

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

"Idiot" No More; Well, Sort Of

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For over two and a half years now, since June '14 — according to my most recent invoice, "idiot" lights on the dashboard of my model year 2000, Honda Accord have warned me that all was not right with our back-up car. But due to intermittent use, amazing self-discipline on my part and little new evidence to the contrary, the Honda has maintained its performance, if you can even call it that. Soon after this last visit to my local mechanic had cleared the pre-2014 dashboard indicators, the "SRS" (seat belt restraint system) came on suggesting that something was once again rotten in Denmark, and Burtonsville, too. Nevertheless, with the ink barely dry on my credit card receipt, and with our second car not being a priority, I decided to let it live and let live and hope for the best. Approximately 32 months later, my hope has been realized. No repairs have been required in the interim. However, over that same time, multiple additional "warning" lights have come on: "brake lamp," "maintenance due," and just recently, the infamous/scourge "check-engine" light to where four lights are now illuminated. And though, to my credit, I have been able to endure and ignore their constant reminders; but when that fourth light, the "check-engine" light came on, I feared my benign neglect had finally come home to roost. So I bucked up, called my local mechanic, and made the arrangements to drop off the Honda. Then I waited for a more detailed assessment of the damage done. A few days later, I got the call. I'll spare you the details since I can't explain them anyway; but the repairs were going to cost around \$1000, as good as could be expected for a 17 year-old car with 95,000 miles on the odometer.

However, what I am most excited about concerning this outcome is — yes 'excited' is the right word — that for the first time in years I won't have to face down warning lights in my car and alarm bells in my head about what potential car trouble and expense I've been putting off and likely making worse. And most importantly, no longer having to exercise the inordinate self-control required to ignore these warning lights and not to be corrupted by their relentless — literally and figuratively — reminders. It's almost as if I can face reality again, breathe normally and not feel under siege.

Having only driven the car barely two miles home since I picked it up from "Tony's," I can't yet say driving is fun. However, I can admit that driving will be less irritating, will require less mental discipline and when I look down at my car's dashboard, I will not long for a bygone era of dashboard neutrality. Once again, as if the Honda is under dealer warranty, I will not see any indicators/lights of something I've neglected to do or of repairs I'm unable to afford.

As much as I'd like to think I'm fairly well-adjusted and know how to process and prioritize things in my life, having cancer does seem to alter these processes and priorities. And when something simple and/or unexpected happens in your life which allows you to regain your composure and equilibrium, it helps that much more to assimilate the cancer-related conditions, effects and challenges you've come to expect. Not that I thought much about this eventuality when I dropped off the car at "Tony's," but now, having not seen any lights, I feel unburdened, as if a weight has been taken off my shoulders and out of my head.

Moreover, when you're living in the cancer bubble, burdens expected — and otherwise — tend to pile up — and on — and when one is able to catch a break/breake along the way, the positive effect is disproportionate to reality. It means so much even though it may seem like so little. Whether it's regaining some control, solving a non-cancer-related problem or crossing an item off a to-do list; living one's life with as few distractions as possible, generally speaking, will likely result in some comfort and joy; not the movie, but the peace of mind.

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

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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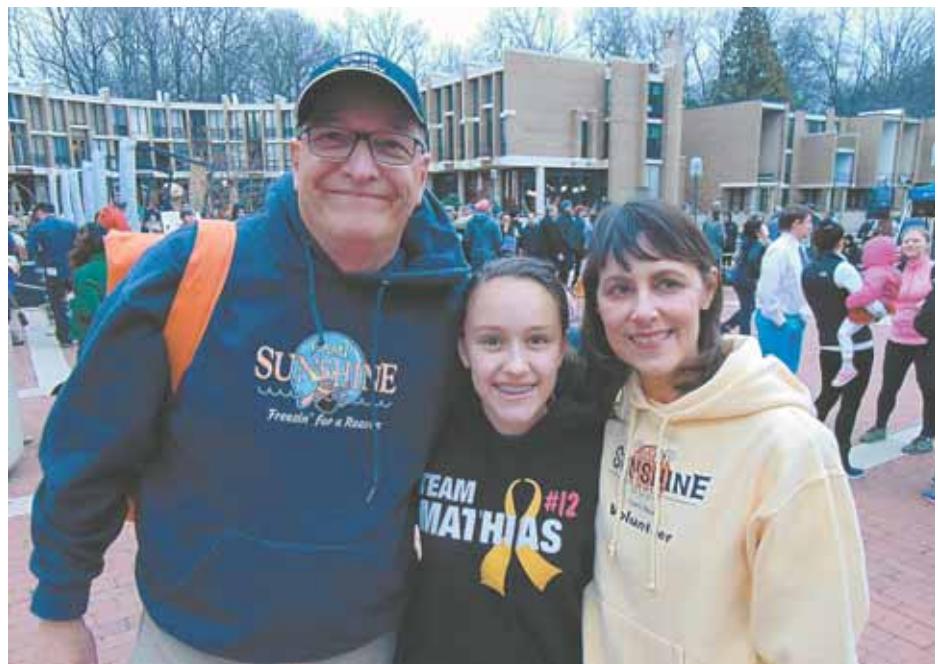
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News



Several hundred people attended the 10th Annual Freezin' for a Reason (Virginia Polar Dip) on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Lake Anne Plaza's waterfront in Reston.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

From left: Virginia Polar Dip's Bill Toth with daughter Julianna and wife Gail, who organized the event.

Freezin' for a Reason

With water temperature at 38 degrees, more than 200 participants took the plunge in the 10th Annual Freezin' for a Reason (Virginia Polar Dip) on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Lake Anne Plaza's waterfront in Reston. The fundraiser is expected to raise \$80,000 for Camp Sunshine on Lake Sebago in Maine, which benefits children with cancer and their families. Groups came from as far away as Boston, Ohio, and Maine to participate in this year's event. Chilli Amar of 97.1 WASH-FM radio station emceed the event, which included several corporate sponsors, such as Tropical Smoothie Cafe and Eagle Bank, among others. In the past nine years, 1,484 people helped raise \$623,000 for Camp Sunshine through their participation.

"We hope to raise enough money to send families with children with life-threatening illnesses to Camp Sunshine," said organizer Gail Toth. "We thank the community for their generosity in supporting the event every year." Toth's oldest daughter, Jennifer, now 24, had cancer when she was 2 and the family attended Camp Sunshine. She is now healthy and in remission.

— STEVE HIBBARD

Virginia Polar Dip attracts 200 participants; raises \$80,000 for Camp Sunshine.



The DBA Warriors get ready to jump in the water.



Team Kalypso Sports Tavern takes the plunge.



The Chicken Dippers Team put their feet in the water and did not fully jump in.



Team Kalypso Sports Tavern gets ready for the plunge to begin.