



Reston CONNECTION

PET CONNECTION

Inside

Aaron Gordon of Gordon Food Group and the proprietor of the Red Velvet Cupcakery on Democracy Drive, is one of the merchants who is leading the charge against paid parking at Reston Town Center.

PAID PARKING PROBLEM

Merchants of RTC apologize for the inconvenience the new paid parking system has created. We ask that you share your concerns with Boston Properties

DC: 202-585-0800

Boston: 617-236-3300

"We undertook this [paid parking] for a couple of reasons. OBVIOUSLY, REVENUE IS ONE."

- Peter Johnston
Boston Properties, Inc.

Restonians Protest Paid Parking At Town Center

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Restonians Organize Against Paid Parking

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Restonians are revolting against paid parking at Reston Town Center. Boston Properties, which owns and manages the buildings in the town center, implemented the pay-to-park system on Jan. 3. After a month, merchants organized on Monday, Feb. 6, at the center's Vapiano restaurant to discuss possible actions they could take against Boston Properties, including legal actions.

"Unfortunately, many of the most vocal people who are speaking out and speaking to the media representing Reston Town Center retailers, many of them are employees rather than owners," said Kathy Walsh, a spokesperson for Boston Properties. "Boston Properties has had a number of discussions with owners and senior managers who actually have indicated they do not share their employees' views or approve of their behavior in response to paid parking."

There were many owners and managers at the meeting at Vapiano.

"This paid parking situation is killing us," Aaron Gordon of Gordon Food Group and the proprietor of the Red Velvet Cupcakery in the town center, said during the meeting. "It's hurting our reputation and hurting the reputation of the town center as a whole."

Gordon's business was down 25 percent in sales the week prior to the meeting, he said. And the customers who are not turning away from buying his cupcakes at the town center complain about the prices and often blame his business.

"People have been coming in, half of our customers that are still left, and bitch and moan to us — which they have every right to do — and say, 'Why did you do this?' A lot of people actually think we've caused this problem."

He said his business cannot validate parking, even though his customers ask.

"We have a \$3 product," he said.

This was the tune for a lot of the proprietors who voiced concern during the meeting.

"At Big Bowl, we were down 10 percent in sales [compared to same time last year] ... We were down 1,200 customers in January," Aaron Mervis, vice president of Big Bowl restaurant in the town center, said at the meeting. "We also spent \$1,600 on parking validation for guests."

"We're down a substantial amount of business over at World of Beer," Evan Matz, the restaurant's owner, said at the meeting. "Patrons will come in and they'll ask if they can validate and of course we can't afford to validate for them because our ticket items are so low."

Matz said that customers are changing their behavior and spending less time perusing the town center to avoid high parking fees, which is hurting his business.

"We used to see customers coming in with



Lisa Capalbo, an employee of a store on Market Street, voiced her concern that she felt her store was being pushed out of the town center.



Mark Clyman of the Reclaim Reston offered his group's support to the merchants in their fight against paid parking.



Elizabeth Krial posted this photo of an immobilized car to Facebook on Monday, Feb. 13, with this caption: "BITTEN BY THE YELLOW BARNACLE!! Nothing says, 'Welcome to the Reston Town Center' like a bright yellow immobilizing device on your vehicle's windshield. Oh ... happy Monday!! Poor guy. What a way to start of the week!!"

bags," he said. "But we don't see those customers coming in anymore because they're coming, getting what they need and getting back in their car and leaving right away."

NUMBERS AT THE BIKE LANE cyclist shop are also suffering, according to its owner Todd Mader.

"Our concern is how much damage has been done with our customers?" he asked the crowd. "If we were to magically get this repealed tomorrow, I don't think it would go back to the way it was, at least not at first."

But he hopes he can make up the lost business on weekends, which are the busiest times for his shop when garage parking is free.

Lisa Capalbo, an employee of a store on Market Street in the town center, voiced concern that her store and other businesses are being pushed out. She refrained from providing her employer's name because she does not represent the company, though her employer also attended the meeting.

There were 68,000 parking visits in Janu-

ary, according to Walsh, who would not provide the revenue earned from these sessions.

This winter's unseasonably warm weather has been a boon for Ray Pugsley's Potomac River Running stores, but not at his town center location.

"This weather is fantastic for us ... all of my other set of stores are up somewhere between 10 and 15 percent in the last 30 days," Pugsley said at the meeting. "This store here is down 4 percent ... We're not down that much but that's because it's ridiculous weather for us."

Potomac River Running facilitates fun runs and running seminars throughout the week for its customers. The customers who participate in these events cannot get parking validation because they usually don't make purchases, Pugsley said.

As a result, his Reston Town Center store will no longer host events, which were very popular before paid parking went into effect.

"We've canceled them all and we're moving them to other stores," he said.

The silver line of the metrorail was a big

factor in Boston Properties' decision to implement paid parking, according to Walsh.

"Over the past three years, Boston Properties has really been tracking usage patterns and literally tens of thousands of people were using Reston Town Center garages for short- and long-term commuter parking, including overnight and out-of-town stays that created a shortage of spaces for tenants and visitors to the town center," Walsh said.

However, it doesn't appear many parkers are willing to pay for extended parking. In fact, the average transaction is \$4.67, which equates to a little more than 2.5 hours, according to Walsh.

SOME OF THE MERCHANTS say they plan on ending their leases as soon as possible. But, Deidre Castronovo, the owner of PR at Partners salon, told the group that she recently signed a 10-year renewal and may have decided otherwise if she knew about the switch to paid parking.

But Walsh said there is no excuse for retailers who are claiming they weren't aware of paid parking or the possibility for paid parking before they signed their leases.

"Parking language is built into every lease," Walsh said. "Any renewing or new tenants should have been fully aware of the possibility of paid parking. There have been ongoing communications releasing details of the paid parking since last January [2016]."

Since the meeting, the group has hired the Fay Law Group to examine the merchant's leases.

Though litigation will be a tough fight if they choose to go that route.

"[Boston Properties] relied on both internal and external legal counsel to thoroughly review every lease and they are very confident in respect to their decision to implement paid parking," Walsh said.

The troubled merchants' firm will also organize them into a unified association.

"It's important for us to have a unified voice," Gordon said. "We should have about 50 to 60 merchants in what we're calling the Reston Merchants Association by this Thursday."

The decision to organize and seek legal counsel was made after Boston Properties denied their request to provide free three-hour parking validation for all visitors, Gordon said.

"While Boston Properties is confident that paid parking is going to stay, the reality is the paid parking model has only been activated for [8] weeks," Walsh said.

As Boston Properties monitors the impact, they will assess whether modifications are necessary, she said.

Members of the public also attended to show their support of the merchants' fight against paid parking.

"We are on your side," Mark Clyman,

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 11

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News

Hunter Mill Community Summit to Be Held March 4

On Saturday, March 4, the Hunter Mill District Community Summit will take place at the Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. The event, which starts at 8:30 a.m., and concludes at noon, is an opportunity to get an update on the County and Fairfax County Public School FY 2018 Budgets, as well as be an active participant in dialogue and discussions. Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins will host the summit with presentations by Chairman Sharon Bulova, Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco, County Executive Ed Long, and Fairfax County Schools.

The highlight event will be the Prosperity, Equity, and One Fairfax Community presentation by Sookyoung Oh, D.C. Area Director National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC). Oh's advocacy and coalition-building work supports health reform, early childhood edu-

cation and welfare (Head Start, family child care), immigration reform, and policies related to taxes, budget, pension system, health care, and immigrant communities.

Subsequently, the community will be asked to participate in a Build-A-Budget exercise, based on budget information and speaker presentation. During the exercise, residents will identify funding priorities and allocations to address need of Fairfax County by electronic "vote," the results of which will be instantly shared.

In addition, the Department of Tax Administration staff will be available to provide one-on-one consultation to senior and disabled residents on tax relief opportunities during the Summit hours.

To RSVP or for questions regarding the meeting, contact the Hunter Mill District Office at 703-478-0283, or email to RSVPHuntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH MARCH 7

The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses in Virginia that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations affected by the

severe storms and tornadoes on Feb. 24, 2016. Deadline to file is March 7, 2017. Visit disasterloan.sba.gov/ or www.sba.gov/disaster. Email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

THURSDAY/FEB. 23

Reston Association Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Board of Directors meeting. Visit www.reston.org for more.

THROUGH FRIDAY/FEB. 24

Diva Central Dress Drive with Reston Community Center.

Monday, Jan. 23 through Friday, Feb. 24, collection in building lobbies. Reston Community Center's mission for the annual Diva Central Dress Drive is to promote confidence and self-esteem by providing high school students a free prom dress and other accessories. Donate new or lightly used formal dresses, shoes, jewelry, handbags & accessories, collected in boxes

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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PET CONNECTION



Chippewa is now 10 pounds with an even bigger personality.

Finding Chippewa

I walked into the Potomac Yard PetsMart in Alexandria with my partner on a Saturday morning in 2012 expecting to quickly go in to grab some cat litter and get out. After all, we were both preoccupied with knocking out our list of errands so we could move on to better things. That's when

a six-pound puppy stole my heart. We walked right into a pet adoption event.

Chipp is a Chihuahua-Shiba Inu mixed breed that was underweight, riddled with kennel cough and left alone after her brother was adopted without her. How could I say no to that little, sesame-colored

face? Here we are five years later, happy and healthy, cuddling by a campfire and walking in Oakland Park in Arlington. Thank you Last Chance Animal Rescue!

Last Chance Animal Rescue, Inc. is a non-profit organization with a mission to minimize the euthanasia of homeless pets

through both adoption and providing low-cost, high-quality spay/neuter for both dogs and cats. It partners with more than 30 PetSmart and Petco stores in the region to provide full-service, in-store adoptions. Adopt a pet: lastchanceanimalrescue.org.

— FALLON FORBUSH



Here we are cuddling by a campfire last fall.

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Helping with the Laundry

This is Roger and he likes to help with the laundry — which really consists of getting in the middle of things in order to get more attention.

— STEPHEN SACHS, RESTON



Memories of Christmas

Olive, Haley McComber's 2-year-old Beagle-Hound rescue, playing the part of Mary in a Christmas 2016 Nativity scene. Submitted by Stephen Gingras and (daughter) Haley McComber of Herndon.



Picture-perfect.

— PATTI MILLER, RESTON

Meet Charlie

This is Charlie. We adopted him when he was 4 years old, following the death of our previous rescue Golden at the age of 16.

Soon after we adopted Charlie we moved in with my husband's father, who is elderly and was living alone and suffering from progressive dementia.

Charlie fell in love with "Grandpa" and spends lots of time with him. In this photo Charlie is looking out the door to the deck, surveying the woods behind our house. I love this photo!

— KARYN DAVIS, RESTON



Angus on the run.

Angus: At Home at Lake Anne

After we lost our first Scottie, we searched high and low for a young one to fill the void in our family. We got word of a puppy way out in Iowa looking for a home and we claimed him and named him Angus MacTavish.

When we got his AKC papers certifying him as a purebred Scottie, we learned that his father was none other than a

Scottie named "George W. Bush"! But, we decided to keep him anyway.

That was seven years ago. Now he is family and loves living on Lake Anne. Here he is on a typical day: racing on the beach at Waterview, getting a well-deserved treat from Fran on the Van Gogh Bridge, and taking a nap on our bed.

— JOHN LOVAAS



Angus taking a nap.

Angus with Fran Lovaas.



PEOPLE & PETS OF GREAT FALLS

Alexandra Cooker of Great Falls cuddling with her favorite pet cat "Bells."



LETTERS

Family Displaced by Fire, Needs Temporary Home

To the Editor:

As some of you may have heard, members of our community recently suffered a massive fire and their home will not be habitable for a year. While insurance will cover reconstruction costs, it will not cover mortgage payments and living expenses somewhere else. If any members of our community have a rental property that is currently unoccupied or will be out

of town for a long period of time and willing to share their home (with two adults, two elementary school children and a dog), please let me know.

Any help providing a home to this family will be a huge mitzvah. Thank you,

Rabbi Michael G. Holzman
Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190 Email to sara@nvhcreston.org

Ordeal with Reston 'Pay for Parking'

To the Editor:

RTC management folks, the way you ran this "pay for parking" scheme was like a bunch of rookies.

For one, this whole excuse of charging because of commuters is "fake news," could have easily charged for those coming in early and leaving late and given a grace period for shoppers and made an allowance for employees.

For two, I went to RTC for the first time this year on Friday (and I am a local who used to go at least 2-3 times per week), wanted to pay by credit card, but the whole experience was an ordeal: small keys on terminal, delete button not working, could not bypass the "do not send receipt by email" button (went into an endless do loop) and

this is despite having two of your helpers in the garage. On top of that, only one machine? So long line waiting to pay, took me 15 minutes to make a credit card payment. Couldn't you simply do what other garages do, which is have a meter where you put your slot number or conversely, a gate with pay by credit card, like at the airport.

Three: \$4 or \$5 to go have a lunch that may cost \$5 or \$6 at Subway, or even \$15-\$20 at a more upscale restaurant when I can go down the street for free? Really? This is not D.C. — not even Arlington or Rosslyn — plenty of other choices close by. I feel sorry for your commercial tenants.

Bert Katz
Reston

FAITH NOTES

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

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

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

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

Washington Plaza Baptist Church will hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at Lake Anne

Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

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

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

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

Job Fairs Match Teens, Employees

Supervisor Pat Herrity's (R-Springfield) office, along with a variety of business and community organizations, hosted two teen job fairs and resume building workshops last year. These events focused on students and younger job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions. These two job fairs provided hundreds of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their positions. More than 600 students and more than 70 employers attended both events combined.

This year, Herrity is teaming up with the Supervisors Kathy Smith

(D-Sully District), Linda Smyth (D-Providence), and Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon) to bring our community four Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Resume Building Workshops. It is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment or tips to build their

resume. Free booth space will be provided to any business or organization to advertise their available positions. Both teenagers and businesses/organizations may register to attend by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm>

2017 Schedule

❖ Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Chantilly High School

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, and Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

❖ Saturday, March 18, 1 to 3 p.m., Oakton High School

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department

❖ Saturday, April 1, 12 to 2 p.m.,

West Springfield High School
Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government Association and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

❖ Saturday, April 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., South County Secondary School
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4
located in building lobbies.
restontowncenter.com

THROUGH FRIDAY/FEB. 24

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 completed online by February 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 Dr., Reston, VA 20191. Visit the LRA website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org to

enter works in the exhibit and for more information on this and other events.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Community Tax Assistance Day. Deloitte presents its 10th annual Community Tax Assistance Day or

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9



2017 Adoption Fairs

Just Cats Clinic
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3/26 4/23 5/21 6/25 7/16
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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Diva Central Dress Drive with Reston Community Center Through Friday, February 24, collection in building lobbies 11911 Freedom Drive & 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center Help promote confidence and self-esteem by providing high school students with new or lightly used formal dresses, shoes, jewelry, handbags & accessories, collected on behalf of Reston Community Center. restontowncenter.com

Poets and Painters. Through Feb. 26, various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Exhibit is “Springtime in Winter: An Ekphrastic Study in Art, Poetry and Music.” A reception on Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 7-9 p.m., will feature readings and music created to complement the works of eight fine artists. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9560 for more.

FPA Television Series. Through Feb. 28, various times on Verizon FiOS TV and Cox Communications in Fairfax County, and by Comcast in Reston. The specials will air on FPA CHANNEL 10, FPA INTERNATIONAL CABLE 30, and FPA SPIRITUAL TV 36. Fairfax Public Access (FPA), will premiere a special series of new movies and documentaries throughout February, in recognition of Black History Month.

Painted Passion at ArtInsights. Through March 5, 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.

Photography Competition. Through March 11, various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Showcase the works of local photographers, with cash award to the winner. Awards reception on Saturday, Feb. 27, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9560 for more.

Slave Life Exhibit. Through March 31, various times at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. \$7 adults, \$6 students, and \$5 seniors and children age 5-15. Artifacts excavated from around Sully’s 18th-century slave cabins. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

sully-historic-site/ or call 703-437-1794 for more.

Ice Skating in the Pavilion 8 a.m.-11 p.m. open daily through March.
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

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. Call 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more information.

“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

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.

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,



Black History Month

Through Feb. 28 Fairfax Public Access (FPA), will premiere a special series of new movies and documentaries throughout February, in recognition of Black History Month. The specials will run at various times on Verizon FiOS TV and Cox Communications in Fairfax County, and by Comcast in Reston. The specials will air on FPA CHANNEL 10, FPA INTERNATIONAL CABLE 30, and FPA SPIRITUAL TV 36.

gym games, arts and crafts projects, bingo or play in the pool. \$2. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/ for more.

glass. \$35. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9560 for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Crossfit Grand Opening. 11 a.m. at 293 Sunset Park Drive. Herndon Councilmembers and Crossfit workout demonstrations. Visit www.crossfit286.com or call 703-628-2956 for more.

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 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.

Design and Wine Workshop. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Participants will design and create a fine art mosaic piece using a supply of precut mosaic

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.

MARCH 3-11

GRACE Art: Celebrating Creativity. Various times at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), 12001 Market St., Suite 103. celebrates Youth Art Month with two exhibitions dedicated to the artistic achievements of the area’s youth. Opening reception and family day, March 4, 12-4 p.m. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Silver Line 55+. 6 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. Dinner and “An Evening of

Memories” honoring NVHC’s Jubilee. \$20 for members/\$25 for nonmembers. Reservation deadline Wednesday, March 1. Call 540-521-1692 or email mssheinman@yahoo.com for more.

Atlas Intersections Festival. 8 p.m. at the Atlas Performing Arts Center – Lang Theater, 1818 Library St., Ste. 500, Reston. Northern Virginia based performing arts modern dance company performs. Visit www.gindance.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 7

Color Me Happy. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Adult coloring session. Coloring pages, pens and pencils provided. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 8

Healthy Diet Ideas for Diabetes. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Nutritionist Natalie Kannan presents ways you can help control your diabetes and pre-diabetes through managing diets and changing eating lifestyles. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Lecture about County Borders. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local historian Jim Lewis tells the story behind the evolution of the Fairfax and Loudoun County boundary line. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more.

Purim Comedy Night. 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Featuring comedians Bengt Washburn and Matty Litwak and the Shticklets. \$36. Call 540-521-1692 or visit www.nvhcreston.org/ for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 12

Lucky Leprechaun 5K. 8:30 a.m. at the Fountain Square and Streets Race, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. 3.1 mile race and kid fun run. Register at praces.com/ luckyleprechaun or call 703-689-0999.

MARCH 17-APRIL 1

Emerging Visions: Interactions. Various times at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston. After viewing Shih Chieh Huang: Synthetic Transformations, students were asked to explore different interpretations and aspects of interactions. The final selections will be on view in the gallery. Opening reception, March 18, 6-8 p.m. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

SATURDAY/MARCH 18

St. Patrick’s Day Party. 6-9 p.m., at St. Veronica’s Church parish hall, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. A family event that includes food, drink, sing-alongs, Irish dancers and plenty of smiling Irish eyes. Adults \$7, Children \$5, drinks extra. Visit www.stveronica.net/ or call 703-773-2000 for more.

MARCH 17-19

From the Mouths of Monsters. Various times at Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. \$5 for students, \$15 for adults, appropriate for students in grades 7-12. Visit herndonhighschooltheatre.ticketleap.com.



‘Art Around the World’

The Carpet Weaver, Turkey, by Patricia Deege is part of the “Art Around the World,” exhibit at the Vienna Arts Society show running from March 6 at 115 Pleasant St. NW in Vienna.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER CLARK

Kevin Rios

Sunrise Senior Living Hires New Director of Sales

Sunrise Senior Living at Reston Town Center hired Kevin Rios as its new director of sales. He comes to Sunrise with an extensive background in hospitality with more than 10 years of service. In his role, he is committed to helping Sunrise champion quality of life for all seniors and is looking forward to being a resource in the surrounding community.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Day (VITA) to serve qualified individuals and families. Deloitte employee/volunteers will assist families with 2016 Federal and state tax returns for households with a total income of \$54,000 or less. Translations services in Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese will be provided. In addition, American Sign Language interpreters will be available. Location is Fairfax SkillSource Center, Heritage Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Appointments are recommended: e-mail taxday@volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3896. Walk ins are welcome. Additional information is available at www.nvacash.org. On tax preparation day, clients should bring all pertinent documentation. For a complete list, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 28

INOVA Blood Drive. noon-7 p.m. at the Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. Visit inova.org/donateblood or call 1-866-256-6372.

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Hunter Mill Community Summit. 8:30 a.m.-noon at Frying Pan Farm Park 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Join Supervisor Hudgins and County leaders for presentations and discussions on this year's budget proposals. Email huntermillRSVP@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 7

Application Deadline. The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses in Virginia that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations affected by the severe storms and tornadoes on Feb. 24, 2016. Deadline to file is March 7, 2017. <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Visit www.sba.gov/disaster or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

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3/1/2017.....Wellbeing

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3/15/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

3/22/2017.....Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

3/29/2017.....Connection Families

APRIL

4/5/2017.....Wellbeing: Senior Living Pullout

4/12/2017.....Spring Parade of Homes

4/19/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/26/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/26/2017.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

4/26/2017.....Connection Families; Spring Outlook 2017

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-William Van Horne

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-Dagobert Runes

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Protest March Set for Saturday, March 4

FROM PAGE 3

member of the Reclaim Reston group, said during the meeting.

A “Park Free RTC” protest march is planned at the town center for Saturday, March 4.

Gaurang Shah, who lives in the town center, is organizing the protest.

Shah is also the organizer of the “Reston Social Scene” and “iSocial” Meetup groups in Reston, which have about 5,000 members combined.

He said his successful social functions are now struggling since paid parking was implemented. Members of his groups encouraged him to take action.

But the protest march will be tricky, since the town center is private property.

“Reston Town Center is private property ... and it’s been a longstanding policy of Reston Town Center to not serve as a platform for any demonstration,” Walsh said. “Boston Properties’ policy has always been not to allow any demonstrators on site.”

THE PROTEST will be meeting at undisclosed public locations around the town center, which will be published on the Facebook event page closer to the date. This is because Shah and other organizers are still working on attaining permits and they don’t want to tip off Boston Properties to their plans ahead of time.

Still, he plans on leading protesters on a march through the town center.

“Boston Properties doesn’t own the streets,” Shah said. “If we don’t stop at any point, we can walk in the town center. We’re not going to stop anywhere or block traffic.”

Over 700 people have indicated that they are “interested” in the protest on the event’s Facebook page and nearly 300 others have indicated that they are “going.” With this much interest, Shah estimates crowd sizes will inevitably block traffic.

“We are kind of worried, so that’s why we’re talking with the local police department to make sure all of the protesters are escorted by police,” he said.

Elizabeth Krial, a 20-year Reston resident, is also helping with the protest.

“It’s not just about the businesses,” Krial said. “It’s now about the fact that this is unraveling the fabric of our community. This is where people would come together and let their kids run around and play and walk their dogs and meet friends. That’s not happening anymore.”

She blames the parking policy and the aggressiveness of the enforcement.

ORGANIZERS are encouraging protesters not to park at the town center, even though the garages are free on weekends.

“If the protesters do choose to park over at the Reston Town Center, they need to park in the garages because parking along the street is still not free on Saturdays,” Krial said.

While Boston Properties has not received sales information from all merchants for the month of January, the data they received does not show that all stores experienced



PHOTO BY FALCON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Robyn Hanna, COO of Edibles Incredible Desserts told a gathering of town center merchants that employee turnover has been “rampant” since paid parking went into effect, as the store’s CEO, Alan Furman, looks on.

decreased sales, according to Walsh.

“[The data is] just not aligning with some of those claims that retailers are making that sales are going down,” Walsh said.

The Connection asked for the full data, but was told that it could not be provided.

While a vocal Reston is opposing the paid parking, Walsh insists the switch was always

in the plans.

“Paid parking was always in the plans for Reston Town Center since its inception,” Walsh said.

“Although it’s recently been activated, it’s something that was always on the radar and that they were always planning to implement at some point.”

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West Springfield High School
Saturday, April 1
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Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Oakton High School
Saturday, March 18
1 pm to 3 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department

South County Secondary School
Saturday, April 29
11 am to 1 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

To register as an employer or student, or for more information, please visit
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm

A Date With Destiny



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I suppose, given that Feb. 27, 2017 is the eight-year anniversary of my original non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis, followed up almost immediately with my “13 month to two-year” prognosis, I should make mention of it. Not that I need any reminding, but perhaps you regular readers who don’t exactly know my history, might be curious as to how long I’ve been droning on about cancer. Strictly speaking, it was June 2009 when my first cancer-type (it was the diagnostic process, actually) column was published: “Dying to Find Out, Sort Of.” And I’ve been self-indulging myself ever since save for the odd occasion when my mind wanders elsewhere and I’m able to write outside the cancer bubble.

Which is probably a good thing, as is venting every week about the good, bad and the ugly, concerning my having cancer and learning how to live with it. Not that the content is particularly informative, factually, but it is an honest description of the anxieties and fears a patient experiences. Occasionally, I will include a few facts, but as a sports- and chocolate-person, medicine/science and my knowledge and understanding, and ability to explain them are mutually exclusive at best and an oxymoron at worst, with yours truly being the moron. What kind of moron you ask? As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges answered in a long-ago “two-reeler.” “Why? Are there more than one kind?”

Nonetheless, in spite of myself, life has gone on as I’m proud and extremely fortunate to say. As to where I am in the cancer-survivor scheme of things? Somewhere between slim and none. When I was first diagnosed, my oncologist said the survival rate for similarly staged patients (stage IV) after five years was in the low single digits (as in 1 to 2 percent). When my wife, Dina, asked him why aren’t there any parades for lung cancer survivors (as is so often the case with breast cancer survivors), he answered quite succinctly: “Because there aren’t any,” (survivors, that is). I appreciated his honesty and told him so. I was clueless however, as to what my immediate future would really be like. I would know soon enough as it was recommended that I start chemotherapy as soon as possible. I remember my brother, Richard, asking the oncologist what would he do if it was his brother diagnosed with lung cancer; his answer was to begin infusions without delay and so a week later, we began.

And so here I am, nearly eight years later, still minding my own business and sharing it with you all every week. My infusions now occur every five weeks, CT Scans every three months. My face-to-face appointments with my oncologist occur quarterly as well, a week or so after the scan to discuss the results. So far, mostly so good. Oh sure, I’ve had my moments (tumor growth, fluid build-up in both lungs followed by a week-long stay in the hospital, ongoing kidney concerns, no surgery though), but for the most part, I’ve been incredibly lucky (my oncologist calls me his “third miracle”).

As to what I’m doing to help myself and hurt the cancer? Not nothing. In addition to the standard fare offered by my oncologist, I have supplemented my treatment with a variety of non-Western alternatives, many of which I’ve mentioned in previous columns. Are they working? They’re not hurting, I can tell you that. Could I do more? Probably. Should I do more? Absolutely! Am I doing more or less than I used to? Less, I’m afraid. But as Popeye the Sailor Man said so often: “I ‘yam what I ‘yam.” And come Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, I’ll have “yamed” myself into an eight-year lung cancer survivor. Do I hear nine? Hopefully, I hear a lot more than that. From my pen to God’s ears.

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

Budget Season in Fairfax County

Attend a town hall meeting and express your priorities.

Alexandria and Arlington each have a meals tax, both enacted without a referendum because as urban forms of government in Virginia, their local elected bodies were authorized to enact the tax legislatively.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors had to put the meals tax on the ballot for voters to decide, and after a heated campaign, the tax was voted down decisively.

Elections have consequences, a fact being affirmed on every level right now.

In Fairfax County, this means a more difficult budget process going forward than might otherwise have been the case. The vast majority of Fairfax County's \$3.99 billion budget is financed by property taxes, and the proposed budget is based on no property tax increase.

The meals tax would have provided about \$80 million for the schools; the current budget falls \$61 million short of the FCPS request.

While County Executive Ed Long has said there can be no new programs in the budget defined by no tax increase, we all know that some things could be cut to make room for new, needed programs. Long will conduct an online chat answer budget questions on Friday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. Submit questions here: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/AskFairfax/mobile/ActiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=131

The county will hold a series of budget town hall meetings which will include a presentation, time for questions and feedback.

The Connection welcomes letters for publication on the budget, send to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

EDITORIAL

FAIRFAX COUNTY BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Tuesday, Feb. 21 - 7:30 p.m., Great Falls Citizens Association, Great Falls Library - 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
Saturday, March 4 - 9 a.m., Hunter Mill District Community Meeting, Frying Pan Park, Visitors Center - 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon
Wednesday, March 8 - 7 p.m., Providence Community Budget Meeting, Providence Community Center - 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. - First Floor Multi-Purpose Rooms

Wednesday, March 8 - 7 p.m., Sully District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Rocky Run Middle School - 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly
Thursday, March 9 - 7 p.m., Mason District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale - Main Community Room
Thursday, March 16 - 7:30 p.m., McLean Budget Public Meeting, McLean Community Center - 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.
Monday, March 20 - 7 p.m., Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, West Springfield Government Center - 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield - Community Room
Wednesday, March 22 - 7 p.m., Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center - 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria
Monday, March 27 - 7:30 p.m., Braddock District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Robinson Secondary School - Recital Hall - 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax.

Correction

Last week's editorial implied that in November 2017, the Virginia Senate will be on the ballot. The 40 seats in the Virginia Senate will next be on the ballot in November 2019. All 100 seats in the House of Delegates are on the ballot this November, 2017, along with Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Ian McConnell made Furman University's fall dean's list. McConnell is the son of Elizabeth and Clayton McConnell of Reston.

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

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

Eight students from Fairfax County Public Schools, all attending Thomas Jefferson High School **Snigdha Srivastava** and **Kate Hao**, of Herndon, are on the dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis.

Elise Wiggins, of Reston was named to the dean's list at Grove City College (Grove City, Pa.).

Zachary Klein, of Reston, was named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2016-2017 academic year at The University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, Wis.).

Write

Letters must include full name, home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Email reston@connectionnewspapers.com

What Can I Do?

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



COMMENTARY

In a previous column I addressed in part the question I get from more and more constituents about what they can do to be more active in public service. Their concern of course comes from the outcome of the presidential election and the unbelievable events that have occurred since that time. Adding to that column of Dec. 28, 2016, in which I highly recommended membership in the American Civil Liberties Union and the Southern Poverty Law Center and involvement in the gubernatorial election of 2017 in Virginia, I have decided to further facilitate individuals seeking to find a place in which they could become involved in civic affairs.

On Saturday morning, March 11, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston, I am sponsoring an event, What Can I Do? A Civic Engagement Workshop, to bring together persons who want to be more active in their community and in civic matters at all levels of government with individuals and organizations that can provide opportunities, direction, and assistance in becoming an activist, advocate and participant in their community.

There will be no formal program or speeches. Rather there will be representatives of at least 15 different organizations who are known for their civic involvement who will be there to answer questions and give advice on how persons can get involved. It will not be necessary for participants to attend the entire time. No registration is required. Attendees can "shop" from among the or-

ganizations represented to explore their interests and get to know the representatives who themselves are already actively involved in the community.

Issues and interest areas to be represented include voting, redistricting, elections, immigration, political campaigning, women's rights, poverty, gun violence prevention and others. Groups from both political parties

have been invited as the event is nonpartisan. Participants include the AAUW, Centreville Immigration Forum, Community Matters, Cornerstones, Emerge Virginia, Equality Virginia, Giving Circle of HOPE, Herndon Reston Indivisible, League of Conservation Voters, League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, Moms Demand Action, NAACP of Fairfax County, NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia, Reston-Dulles Section of National Council of Negro Women, New Virginia Majority, OneVirginia2021, Progress Virginia, Reston Environmental Action, SALT, Standing Up for Racial Justice of NoVA, Together We Will Northern Virginia, and the Virginia Interfaith Center.

I share the concern and fears expressed by many people about the future direction of our country. I am greatly disturbed about the negative impact that evolving events are having on my neighbors, our children and grandchildren, our form of government, and the culture of inclusiveness we have spent centuries building. It is time for the people to take back their government with a strong and informed voice.

To the extent to which the workshop contributes to empowering more people to become involved in their government, I feel it will be a success. Plan to participate and invite your neighbors and friends to come as well.

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