

WELLBEING

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# Reston CONNECTION

From left: Nikki Pugh of Germany and Lyndsay Nelson of Reston. Nelson was raised in Germany. "I studied history. I'm here because I know where this can lead," she said, speaking about immigration bans and attacks on free press, among other issues.

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

MARCH 1-7, 2017

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## OBITUARY

### Timothy A. Cohn

Dr. Timothy A. Cohn, U.S. Geological Survey statistical hydrologist and expert on flood risks, water quality, and hydrologic trends, died at his home in Reston, surrounded by his loved ones, on Feb. 20, 2017, a few days short of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

During his 30 years with the USGS, Cohn developed innovative tools to help scientists, engineers, and policymakers better understand water quality and floods in a manner that informs and protects Americans. His tools and concepts are used by federal agencies and are incorporated in software used worldwide. Cohn co-authored groundbreaking articles about the difficulty of discerning true trends in temperature, precipitation, and water quality data and avoiding false "detections" of trends in data subject to natural variation. He focused on climate and natural hazard issues and demanded rigor in analyzing climate change impacts. Cohn also had a major impact on how U.S. water quality scientists estimate pollutant loading to water bodies like the Chesapeake Bay.

Cohn inspired colleagues to identify scientific endeavors requiring the unique perspectives and capabilities of the USGS and mentored others to uphold high scientific standards. For his exceptional contributions as a civil servant, in April 2016 Cohn was granted the Department of the Interior's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

During his career Cohn served as the USGS Science Advisor for Hazards, was president of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) focus group on Societal Impacts and Policy Sciences, and served as an AGU Congressional Science Fellow in the office of U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley (as well as on Bradley's presidential campaign). He also served on the Board of Governors and Executive Committee of the American Institute of Physics, the National Academy of Science Disasters Roundtable Steering Committee, and as an associate editor of Water Resources Research. Prior to his hydrology career, Cohn worked at the Brookings Institution as a research assistant

to the Director of Economic Studies.

Cohn was born in Boston, Mass. on Feb. 26, 1957, son of Alfred B. Cohn and Barbara P. Norfleet. He grew up in Cambridge, attending the Shady Hill School and the Commonwealth School. He dropped out of high school to go to Colombia and work on Ingetec's Chivor Hydroelectric Project, kindling a life-long love of science and water. He then earned a BA in Mathematics from Swarthmore College, and an MS and Ph.D. in Water Resource Systems Engineering from Cornell University.

Cohn lived in Reston for over 30 years, where he raised his two children with his first wife Sarah Gerould. He was active in his community, serving on the board of the Reston Association, and as president of Reston Runners. He was an avid runner, completing countless shorter races and over 30 marathons including New York and Boston several times, many ultramarathons including the Vermont 100 miler, JFK 50 miler, Stone Mill 50 miler, and seven 50K's. Since his cancer diagnosis Cohn competed with and coached for the American Cancer Society Determination team — a cause which combined his love of running and desire to support others fighting cancer.

The cause of death was mantle cell lymphoma, which he battled for three years. As a scientist, Cohn was fascinated by advances in cancer treatment and participated in several clinical trials, including CAR-T cell immunotherapy. He hoped his participation in research would further scientific advances to benefit others, and is especially grateful to the entire team at Memorial Sloan Kettering for their expert and loving treatment.

Cohn is survived by his wife Sarah S. Humphrey, children Alexander Cohn and Hannah Cohn, mother Barbara P. Norfleet, brothers Frederick Cohn and Stephen Cohn, nephews Andrew Cohn, Chase Cohn, Dylan Cohn and niece Caitlin Cohn. The family requests that donations be directed to the American Cancer Society Determination Team or Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

### FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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## Homeowners Oppose Proposed Transit Area Tax

Lack of notification also criticized.

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**H**omeowners voiced concern about paying a proposed service district tax that is being proposed in Reston and outside the Town of Herndon.

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

The FCDOT hosted its second community meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23, on the proposed Reston Transportation Funding Plan at the Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School outside the Town of Herndon.

Staff members from Supervisor Cathy Hudgins' and Supervisor John Foust's offices, who represent the Hunter Mill and Dranesville districts respectively, were present. The meeting, however, was not well attended by the public. Only eight community members showed up, but those who attended were vocal about their concerns.

**FOR THE ROAD FUND**, the rates are proposed at \$2,090 per dwelling unit for residential property and \$9.56 per square foot

SEE HOMEOWNERS, PAGE 4

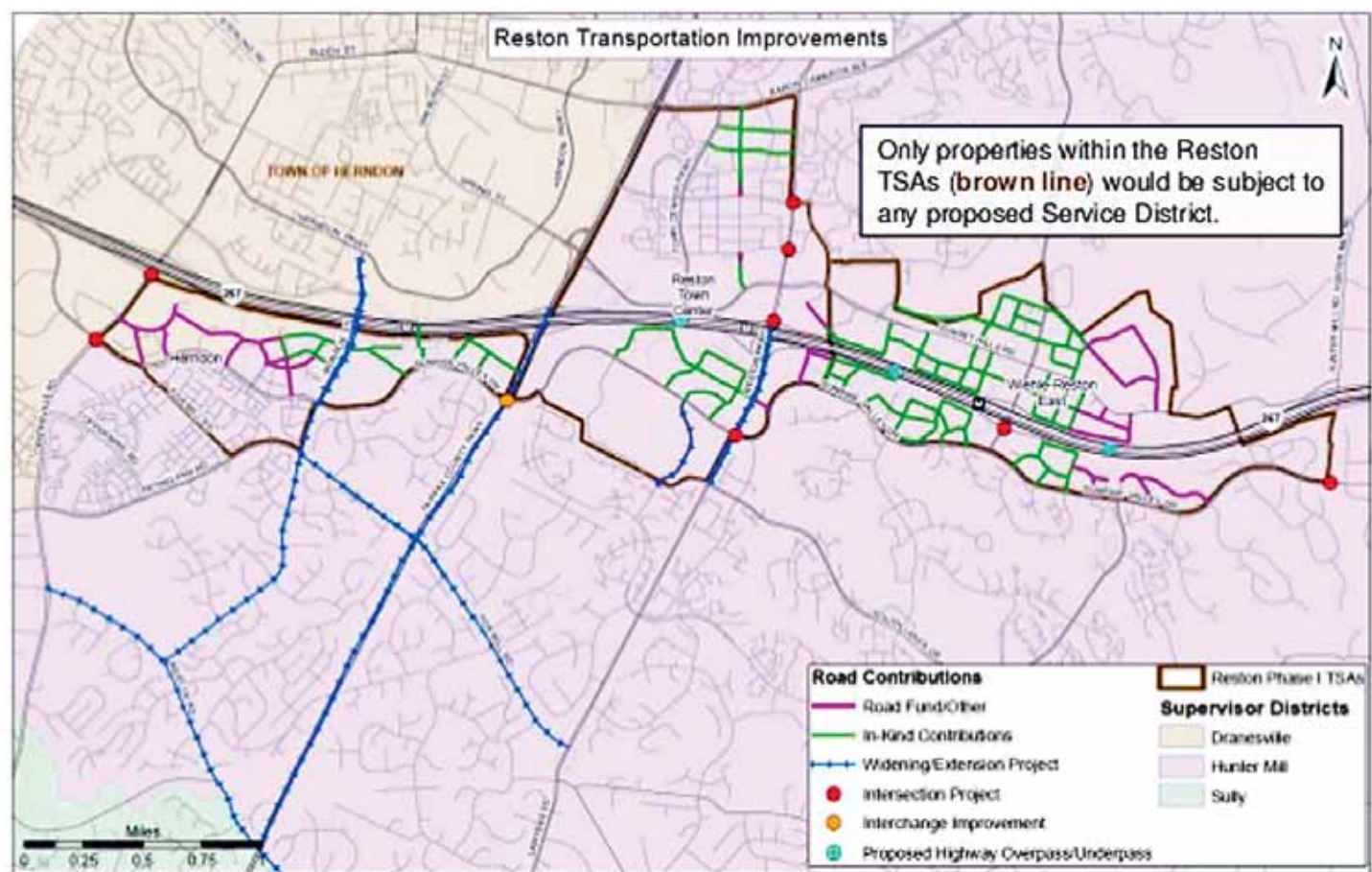


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

## Herndon-Reston Indivisible Group Ready for Action

Movement started as a Google Doc has taken off.

ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Indivisible movement. It started as a Google Doc guide. A few progressive former congressional staffers joined forces to provide information on the workings of government and provide practical advice on how to resist a Trump administration that they see as threatening to the core values of America. Since they sent their guide out into the world via Twitter, 4,500 local groups have formed around them and around the country, like the one in the Herndon-Reston area.

The first time that the Herndon-Reston Indivisible group met, there were about 80 people in attendance and they fit fairly comfortably into one section of Café Montmartre at Lake Anne. The next time they gathered, they filled the eatery. At the

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third official meeting of the political action group, the attendees packed the community room, the classrooms and the hallway of the Sunset Hills Montessori School in the South Lakes Village area in Reston, the facility offered to the cause by school owner Eileen Minarik. "I have the meeting space. It's a community room and this is a community group, looking for ways to look out for all Americans, and that's the way I was raised."

The organizers admitted that the turnout on Tuesday evening, Feb. 21, was a bit overwhelming, but "wonderful to see," said Heidi Zollo as she made some welcoming remarks. About an hour in — after several speakers and words of appreciation to the crowd for their support — hundreds of people eventually formed working "interest groups."

Sixteen issues were on the agenda, divided into two sessions to accommodate the size of the crowd, and to allow participants the opportunity to work on more than one area of concern, should they so desire.

The "Immigration" work group drew Robert and Jill Garcia of Herndon to attend.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**The Herndon-Reston Indivisible attendees break into interest groups to work on specific issues.**

"It's about caring for 'the other,' the 'people who are not us' and needing to get involved to do something about the mayhem of Trump," said Robert Garcia. He was shepherding a line of people to their work-

ing group area with a "Hate Has No Home Here" placard held above his head.

"Indivisible 101" and "Virginia Elections"

SEE HERNDON-RESTON, PAGE 4

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# Homeowners Oppose Proposed Transit Area Tax

FROM PAGE 3

of commercial property.

The service district rate for homeowners is 21 cents per \$100 of assessed value of the property. These are not fixed rates, but would be reviewed annually by the county.

"I'm just a little concerned about the non-developer stakeholders here, the public," Kelley Westenhoff, of Reston, said during the meeting. "Who's going to be speaking for them and watch the hen house?"

The FCDOT is recommending an advisory group of developers and residents to be established to review the rates and make recommendations, according to Tom Biesiadny, director of the FCDOT.

"This isn't a static plan," Biesiadny said during the meeting. "It's not that the Board [of Supervisors] is going to adopt something, cast it in concrete and not revisit it for 40 years. It's a living plan that will be reviewed annually."

The rates have no restrictions on how they could fluctuate.

"I think that's a problem," Lee Lipsey, a homeowner living in the Reston Town Center, said during the meeting. "There is no limit on how much it can go up at any given year and that there is no limit on how much it could go up during the 40-year life."

A Herndon resident who declined to provide her name also voiced concern over the impact the service would have on her home value.

"As a property owner ... I'm being disadvantaged, I think, from selling my residential unit to someone just outside [the service district] that isn't going to have this additional tax burden," she said during the meeting. "And yet they'll be using the streets ... and yet they have no financial stake in the game. Just because I'm geographically within [the service district] why am I being assessed dollars when we have lots more users using these roads."

Biesiadny answered her question by saying the lines were drawn in the county's Reston Transit Station Areas Comprehensive Plan amendment, which the Board of Supervisors adopted on Feb. 11, 2014, and not by his agency.

"There was quite a bit of community outreach as part of that comprehensive plan amendment," Biesiadny said. "That effort went on for about four years in terms of



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION  
**Kelley Westenhoff was concerned that the rates for the road fund and service districts were not fixed and said she did not trust the county to adjust them responsibly or advocate for the interest of homeowners.**

looking at not just what the boundaries are, but what the development that could occur in the boundaries in the future."

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

The proposed road fund would only affect commercial property owners who develop within the TSAs. By right development would not be subject to the road fund.

The proposed service district would affect all property owners within the TSAs (in brown on the map).

The money raised by the funding plan would be used to construct transportation infrastructure projects that were identified by the comprehensive plan.

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

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

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

**THE BOUNDARIES** are no longer up for deliberation, according to Biesiadny.

"Why weren't the residential property



**Hugh Rodell, Jan Visintainer and Lee Lipsey told county officials that they were not aware of the proposed plan and demanded to know why property owners within the proposed service district were not notified by mail before the plan was finalized for presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.**

owners notified by mail in the special districts of all of these public meetings and discussion?" Hugh Rodell asked during the public meeting.

Ray Johnson of the FCDOT responded by saying that an effort was underway to get mailers out to property owners, less than five days before the Board of Supervisors was scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on the plan.

He called on Hudgins' staff members to provide more details, but the two staff members who were present could not provide any details about efforts to notify property owners through direct mailings.

"I'm fairly involved in my community and the area and I just found out about it maybe a week or two weeks ago, much less some of the activity that went on in the early stages of these advisory committees and boards, etcetera," Rodell said. "I would just think that in these special tax districts ... that that would have been a requirement, that all property owners are notified by mail."

Lipsey agreed, but said that it may be too late.

"We know that the last hearings where these things go before the Board of Supervisors, it's too late for citizens to really have an impact and really be heard early enough that what they're saying counts," she said.

The Reston 20/20 Committee came out against the service district back in January



**Ray Johnson of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation explains the Reston Transportation Plan during a community meeting at the Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School.**

during the FCDOT's first community meeting that was held in Reston.

Other groups are voicing opposition to applying a special tax on residential property owners.

The Reston Association Board of Directors voted on the same night of this meeting — Thursday, Feb. 23 — to take a position that the service district should not be applied to any residential properties within the Reston TSA. However, they also recognized that the improvements should be made to "keep pace with development" in the area and that commercial property owners should still be taxed.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing and vote on the Reston Transportation Funding Plan at the Fairfax County Government Center on Tuesday, Feb. 28, before deadline of this paper.

They will not be voting on the tax district.

During the hearing, the Board of Supervisors will also decide on whether to hold a separate hearing on April 4 to vote on the plan's associated service district.

## Herndon-Reston Indivisible Group Ready for Action

FROM PAGE 3

groups were available in both sessions, since educating themselves and others on how to take action and what to do to take it locally, is a cornerstone of the organization.

Tyler Tucker, who was there to represent Lt. Governor Ralph Northam, a candidate for governor in the upcoming November state election, was on hand to offer an insider's perspective on effective engagement with elected officials. He got the crowd fired up when he declared "They've got to be scared. I have never seen such par-

ticipation on our side."

Some of the attendees, like Nikki Pugh from Germany and Lyndsay Nelson from Reston seemed to want involvement in all of the issue groups. "None of this, what's going on [in this administration] is OK with me," said Nelson. "I was raised in Germany. I studied history. I know where this

can lead."

Despite the size of each spontaneous committee, each group was able to organize themselves to appoint leadership, agree on some action points, and make plans for their gathering outside of the next general meeting.

Since Tuesday, Facebook posts for the different sub-groups of

**"None of this is OK with me. I was raised in Germany. I studied history. I know where this can lead."**

— Nikki Pugh

Herndon-Reston Indivisible have been sent across the internet. There are daily reminders to take some specific action with information on how to contact elected officials and what to say to best make a point. There are updates on legislation, moves from the White House, and Town Hall meetings. "We're in it for the long haul," said Zollo. "Like they say, it's a marathon, not a sprint."

To find out more about Herndon-Reston Indivisible, visit their Facebook page. The Indivisible Guide can be downloaded at [www.indivisibleguide.com](http://www.indivisibleguide.com).

# Reston Soccer Field Proposal Kicked Off the Table

## Foul calls exchanged.

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Reston Association Board of Directors voted to kill a proposal by the Reston Soccer Association to fund the renovation of the Lake Newport Soccer Park on Reston Parkway.

The RSA has been seeking approval from the RA to raise funds to pay for improvements to the field since October 2016, when it first presented its ideas the RA Board of Directors during a public meeting.

The RSA proposed to:

- ❖ convert both fields to synthetic turf with plant-derived infill;
- ❖ install LED lights;
- ❖ install bathroom facilities and an equipment storage area; and
- ❖ add other amenities for the community, like a playground and running track.

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

To allow this, the RA would have needed to hold a community-wide referendum. While RSA offered to manage fundraising for the project, RA still would have needed to grant permission for the improvements because the property is on RA land.

After the initial meeting where RSA presented its idea to the RA Board in October 2016, the RA board directed staff members of the association to begin collecting input from its various advisory committees.

While the proposal was on public meeting agendas for the RA Board and various committees, mailed letters were not sent to abutting homeowners until this month.

The RA's original timeline was to vote on whether to grant a referendum for the proposal as soon as this spring. But that changed when the RA gathered abutting homeowners from Concord Green, Arbor Glen and Bayfield Station for a community input meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

**TEMPERS FLARED** during the public meeting, with several angry participants refusing to provide their names for the record or speak at the podium. Instead, they stood and shouted from their seats at RA CEO Cate Fulkerson, who moderated the meeting.

"I don't think this is fair," said, Eric McErlain, president of the Bayfield Station Homeowners Association. "I think we've been ambushed."

McErlain, whose home is about 50 feet away from one of the fields, did not hear about the proposal until the morning on Feb. 4 when he got an email from his next-door neighbor. This neighbor had forwarded a letter that the RA had mailed.

"This project has been signed, sealed and delivered and these last three or four meetings will just be perfunctory," McErlain said.



The proposal by the Reston Soccer Association preliminarily estimated the costs of the proposed improvements to cost more than \$2 million. Because of this, the project would have likely been done in phases.

RENDERING PROVIDED  
BY RESTON SOCCER  
ASSOCIATION

"In their minds, they've already approved this."

According to McErlain, his letter was dated Jan. 27 and postmarked on Jan. 30, but he didn't receive the letter until Feb. 3.

"I have no evidence that this was slow-walked or anything, but optically it's terrible," he said. "It really feels like we're subject to a surprise attack here."

Roberto Anguizola, president of the RSA, was shocked by the reception that he received at the community meeting. This is because his organization has proposed making the soccer fields better for the community without asking anyone to pay for the work. The RSA would have taken the responsibility for all the fundraising.

"Many of them were hearing about our vision for the park for the first time," Anguizola said. "There are some valid concerns."

In addition to feeling rushed about the proposal, there was concern over adding lights to the fields over fear they would extend play time into late hours and give off an intrusive glow.

Neighbors were also opposed to removing the natural, green grass.

"This proposal changes the character of the neighborhood completely, and for somebody to say, 'Hey, you moved next to a soccer field. OK, well I moved next to two grass soccer fields,'" McErlain said.

However, Anguizola thinks LED technology and other compromises, such as time restrictions, could be made that would address these concerns.

McErlain and others also alleged that Anguizola's run for the RA Board is another sign that the decision to approve the referendum has already been baked in prior to engaging with the community.

Anguizola is one of six candidates running for the at-large RA Board seat in the RA's spring election where voting will take place from March 6 to April 3.

"It would be a conflict," Anguizola said. "I would disclose that and have already done that by the fact my candidate state-

ment includes the fact that I'm the president of Reston Soccer on it."

The fact that RA Board members have conflicts or potential conflicts of interest are not unusual, he said.

"It's important to understand that anybody that you would want to be on the board of the Reston Association is heavily involved in the community or a leadership role in some capacity," he said.

If he wins the election and the RA board picks the proposal back up, he said he would recuse himself from making any decisions or votes on the proposal.

**ANOTHER ASPECT** of timing that bothered McErlain and his neighbors was RSA's announcement of a partnership hours prior to the community meeting.

On the same day of the community input meeting, the RSA announced that it had finalized an agreement to partner with the Washington Spirit, a National Women's Soccer League team based in Germantown, Md.

The two organizations jointly announced that it would share resources to base a U.S. Soccer Girls' Development Academy in Reston, beginning this summer.

But Anguizola is adamant that this development has nothing to do with the proposal.

A soccer academy is a method of teaching soccer, not a facility, according to Anguizola.

"You might have three or four different teams and they work together," he said. "It lets you leverage the coaching staff and facilitate scrimmages."

Washington Spirit will not be using the Lake Newport field or any RA field any time soon because they require using synthetic turf fields.

"We're likely going to work with the Washington Spirit on one of the existing Fairfax County turf facilities," Anguizola said. "It's really great for the young girls because we're going to have these great role models and a world-class soccer program focused on girls. That was frankly a weak-

ness for Reston Soccer, so we're really thankful to partner with them."

When the RA board revisited the proposal's timeline at its Thursday, Feb. 23, community members flooded the meeting to speak out against the proposal, most asking to get rid of it entirely.

Some of these members were part of a group of Restonians that McErlain had formed to oppose the plan, the "Preserve Newport Fields" coalition.

The opponent testimony and public outbursts were successful.

Julie Bitzer, South Lakes District RA board director, asked the board to remove the proposal from consideration indefinitely.

"I don't want to see the tail wagging the dog," Bitzer said during the meeting. "It's our land, it's our community's land, everyone who's a member of Reston Association, it's your facility, it's our land and we all should have input into what happens to our facilities."

While the only board member to vote against the motion was At-Large Director Ray Wedell, other board members had mixed feelings about shutting the process down entirely.

"The amenities that were created in 1968 are not going to meet the needs of the community in 2025, they're just not," said Jeff Thomas, at-large RA board director, during the meeting.

He also told the audience that he was surprised at how heated the dialogue became during the meeting and asked for people to reconsider their close-minded approach to engaging in conversations about innovative ideas.

"We know we're going to have to make upgrades to facilities across Reston and we know that members don't want to pay new, increased assessments, so we need to be thinking creatively about partnerships that we could pursue," he said.

Eve Thompson, secretary and at-large RA board director, agreed.

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# OPINION

## Good, Bad and Missed Opportunities

### Results of the 2017 session of the General Assembly.

#### GOOD THINGS

Progress in funding mental health and addressing the opioid epidemic on multiple levels were among the successes of the 2017 General Assembly session.

❖ In addressing the opioid crisis, the General Assembly passed important steps, including Del. Tim Hugo's bill to limit opioid prescriptions to a seven-day supply in most cases; increased access to naloxone, a drug that instantly reverses an overdose; needle exchange programs (to reduce the spread of HIV, viral hepatitis, and other blood-borne diseases); focus on infants born with opioid exposure.

❖ Increased funding for mental health included \$7.5 million to facilitate providing same-day access to mental health screening services by July 1, 2019. (The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board began offering same day, in-person screening for mental health/and or substance use concerns to adults in July 2015 and extended same day access service to youth. The official launch date for youth walk-in service was Feb. 1, 2017.) Also supports for discharge planning and services for people with serious mental illness being released from jail.

❖ The budget included 3 percent raises state employees, increase for teachers and a larger increase for state police.

❖ The Virginia Board of Corrections was given added authority and resources to review deaths in local and regional jails.

❖ Negotiation and legislation will accelerate the City of Alexandria's massive undertaking to fix its sewer system that dumps raw sew-

age into the Potomac River whenever it rains. Wendell Berry's version of the golden rule: "Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

❖ Scott Surovell's bill requiring Dominion to provide better information on coal ash pollution, disaster preparedness, and recycling.

❖ Eileen Filler-Corn's bill requiring that insurance cover up to a 12-month supply of hormonal contraceptives when dispensed or furnished at one time.

❖ School boards are required to have anti-bullying policies that includes notifying parents that their student was involved in a bullying incident.

❖ Use of FaceBook Live allowed members to stream floor discussion, and report to constituents and answer questions directly.

#### BAD BILLS

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has already vetoed some of these, and is expected to veto some others.

❖ Expanded access to concealed weapons; vetoed by Governor. SB1362 would allow anyone with a military ID card to carry concealed weapon; HB2077 would allow guns in emergency shelters and prevents state police or others from prohibiting them for any reason

❖ End funding of Planned Parenthood, vetoed by Governor.

❖ Anti-Sanctuary City Law HB 2000 says no locality shall adopt any ordinance, procedure, or policy that restricts the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

❖ As a reality check on the Virginia General Assembly, HB2025 would allow discrimination against LGBT community under guise of religious freedom, and passed 21-19 in the Senate and 57-37 in the House of Delegates.

❖ HJ 545 would allow special committees of the General Assembly to overturn regulations, upsetting separation of powers. Constitutional amendment (first resolution): "Provides that the General Assembly may suspend

or nullify any or all portions of any administrative rule or regulation."

❖ Photo identification required for absentee ballots.

#### MISSSED OPPORTUNITIES

❖ The biggest missed opportunity of the 2017 General Assembly session was the failure to advance any redistricting legislation, which passed in the Senate and died in the House of Delegates. It's clear that Virginia voters want an end to gerrymandering, but hopes for reform before the next census in 2020 are diminished.

❖ Mental Health in Jails: \$4.5 million was removed from the Governor's proposed budget that would have paid for desperately needed mental health screening in jails.

❖ Legislation to raise Virginia's threshold between misdemeanors and felonies from \$200 to \$500 failed. Virginia's threshold has not changed since 1981, unnecessarily focusing "police and prosecutors on minor crimes instead of violent crime while tainting thousands of Virginia's suffering from depression or drug addiction with felony charges for life," says Surovell.

❖ Ken Plum's bill to increase and index the minimum wage never made it out of committee.

❖ Bills to address student debt also died during the session, as did bills aimed at reducing student suspensions and expulsions.

❖ Republicans stripped language that would have brought \$6 million in federal funds to provide Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) to those at risk for unintended pregnancy at no cost to Virginia voters.

*Thanks to Ken Plum, Scott Surovell, Marcus Simon, Jennifer Boysko, Adam Ebbin and others whose columns and responses helped inform this editorial. We welcome opinions and additions to this list.*

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Filling in the Blanks

To the Editor:

In her monthly newsletter for February, Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins wrote a two-page article stating, "there has been so much information – and misinformation – about who is paying for what regarding the Reston transportation (sic)." Of course, the missing word is "tax."

And although Supervisor Hudgins alleges there has been "misinformation," she makes no attempt to identify any inaccurate information, much less correct it. In the absence of other published information, we assume she is speaking about our letter in the Reston Connection a month ago (Jan. 4-10, 2017, p. 5) discussing the absurdity of a new Reston road tax. In fact, all the information

provided in that op-ed is analytically and/or factually accurate.

What Supervisor Hudgins proceeds to do is re-hash the financial presentation repeatedly presented by the Transportation Department (FCDOT) to her hand-picked citizens committee as well as the community. The result is a one-sided Tetra-esque sales pitch for why the homeowners and businesses in the Reston station areas — from Centerville Road to Hunter Mill Road — should pay a special property tax starting at \$.021/\$100 valuation so the county can make \$350 million in street improvements over the next four decades to accommodate the coming high-density development. In short, it provides half the story.

The other half of the story focuses on fallacious assumptions and failure to match benefits to contributors although there is much more that is incomplete or

less than fully accurate in Hudgins' pitch. We'll just focus on two of the most egregious shortcomings of her article.

The entire argument for adding a special Reston road tax is based on the absurd assumption that there is a \$350 million "funding gap." To her credit, Supervisor Hudgins does not mention that phrase in her article, because there is no gap. It is a creature of FCDOT's imagination and phony county math.

Why is the assumption phony? Because the board could easily move the less than \$9 million per year needed from anywhere else in the county's \$4 billion annual budget; because the board could pay for the needed improvements out of the \$11 billion in property tax revenues it will generate from development in these areas; and because — in a "worst case" scenario — it could infinitesimally

increase any of several existing county tax rates to garner the funds.

In short, there is no "funding gap." It was created by FCDOT to justify adding another special tax on Restonians, the county's cash cow.

And, of course, Supervisor Hudgins letter does not address how the new Reston road tax funds will be spent. Only \$45 million of the total \$350 million will be spent on improving intersections. The remaining 87 percent will go to fleshing out the "grid of streets." For the most part, these funds will be used in building grid streets at the periphery of the Reston station areas near Centerville Road and beyond Reston's post office. These areas are beyond the transit-oriented development (TOD) half-mile circle.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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# Mild Winter Means Early Allergy Season

Experts offer suggestions to prevent and treat allergy symptoms.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION



**Allergist Dr. Barbara Mackie, M.D. advises patients who normally have seasonal allergies to begin taking medication early.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
BARBARA MACKIE

Those experiencing Itchy, watery eyes and seemingly endless sneezing know that spring allergy season is getting an early start this year thanks to this season's mild winter weather.

"Everything is blooming early because of the warm weather," said Dr. Barbara Mackie, M.D., allergist, of Privia Medical Group in Vienna. "People are spending more time outside because the weather is lovely, but they're experiencing allergy symptoms."

One of the keys to surviving allergy season is staying ahead of it. When thermometers are rising above 60 degrees for more than three consecutive days, pollen from plants begins to move through the air. The tree pollen count has reached high concentration levels in the Washington, D.C. re-

gion, according to The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology's National Allergy Bureau Pollen and Mold Report.

"Most of the time seasonal allergies, whether it is spring or fall, are caused by pollens that are associated with grass, trees and weeds," said Dr. Victoria A Garrison, M.D. a Student Health Services physician and a professor in the School of Nursing at George Mason University in Fairfax, "In areas that are damp or humid, mold spores can also be a factor. When people have allergies to these substances, the immune system will react and cause symptoms like sneezing, watery, itchy eyes, runny nose, sore or itchy throat, congestion and fatigue."

"Mild winter temperatures cause plants to pollinate early," added Maureen Moriarty,

DNP, assistant professor of Nursing at Marymount University in Arlington. "This problem may be compounded by a rainy spring season, leading to increased mold levels that can drive allergy symptoms in sufferers through fall months."

Instead of waiting for full-blown symptoms, Mackie recommends beginning medications early. "What I usually tell patients who normally have seasonal allergies is to take their maintenance medications early so they're covered when allergy season hits," she said.

"Being prepared can often help slow down symptoms of allergies," added Kathy Grilliot, director of Clinical Education Respiratory Therapy Program at Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus in Springfield.

"Before the season starts, it is a good idea to start taking a nasal steroid. This medication takes a few weeks to gain full effect so starting before the allergens are everywhere can really help to control symptoms. Eyes can also have allergic reactions, so see a specialist to have a good eye drop for allergen control."

For those who might be perplexed by the distinction between allergies and a common cold: "If it's lasting more than three days with no fever, it's probably not a cold," said

Mackie.

Some precautions that allergy sufferers can take to decrease their exposure to allergens include wearing a face mask when outside during times when the pollen count is high and resisting the urge to open car and house windows when the weather is warm, especially if the wind is blowing. "Take off your shoes when you enter your house so that allergens don't get spread around the house," said Grilliot. "Be aware where you place clothing that has been outside when you enter your house to prevent allergens from entering your home."

"I advise patients to rinse their hair and take a shower to get the pollen off before going to bed at night," added Mackie. "Otherwise you're getting pollen on your pillowcase and sheets and breathing it in all night."

There are certain times of day when allergy sufferers should avoid being outside. "Mid-morning, afternoon and early evening are peak times for pollen," continued Mackie. "When it's windy, don't go out because of the pollen."

Pets can spread pollen as well. "Dogs get spring fever too and want to be outside, but they can bring pollen into the house," said Mackie. "Wipe off their coats and paws when they come inside."

## Reston Association Elections: Time for Real Change?

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Shortly after this column appears in your Reston Connection, you will be getting your very own ballots in the mail for the Reston Association Board of Directors election. Voting by mail or online will begin March 6 and end April 3 for four of the nine seats on the Board.

These are volunteer jobs. Nonetheless, the work the directors do has real impact on living in Reston from the appearance of our community; the condition of our lakes, pools, sports fields, pathways; standards for our homes design and maintenance standards; and, the assessments we pay to make it all work. Directors set policy and a budget currently over \$17 million. They oversee a large staff, managed at

the top by a CEO who makes over \$200,000 per year and five senior staff making over \$100,000 each.

The current board has a mixed record. RA continues to do some things very well. Summer camps for kids are well done. Facilities are generally well maintained — e.g., pools, tennis courts, and pathways. We love walking Reston pathways after it snows. We are amazed at how quickly RA crews clear them under tough conditions. Athletic fields are generally OK, but could be better.

But, there are also significant problems. The Tetra purchase and renovation, and the Lake Anne land swap come to mind as board decisions that were questionable, hardly serving the best interests of RA members. Those decisions had things in common — lack of transparency and lack of early community participation. The board majority made, and continues to make excessive use of executive sessions, effectively hiding part of what should be public record. Under law, executive sessions are to be used exclusively

for discussion of personnel matters and contract negotiations. Also, basic ethics procedures and practices are flawed, sometimes ignored.

Elections are vehicles for changing organizational direction. This RA election provides such an opportunity. Seats for three of six persons serving as the majority voting block are being vacated. And quality replacements are available.

Here are the three I recommend:

❖ Eric Carr for the At-Large position. Eric led the community pressure to get the board to accept independent review of the Tetra debacle. A longtime Reston resident, Eric is an extraordinary community-oriented person who has already demonstrated his commitment to transparency and accountability.

❖ Victoria White for the Hunters Woods/Dogwood seat. Victoria is an accomplished contracts manager and a rising business executive. The board desperately needs her skills.

❖ Newcomer John Mooney for North Point director. John comes from a planning background in Arlington County government. Reston faces growing development pressures. John will be a strong asset in going toe-to-toe with Fairfax County for sensible growth. If Carr, White and Mooney are elected, you will see positive change at RA.

The fourth opening is an Apartment Owners Rep, voted upon by only a handful of apartment complex owners. It traditionally goes to a candidate backed by the Hunter Mill District supervisor. This year is no exception. The supervisor's choice candidate is David Bobzien, longtime Fairfax County Attorney who retired in the aftermath of the controversial handling of the police killing of an unarmed civilian. Two other candidates dropped out when the supervisor's choice became clear. The question is what is the supervisor's agenda for Mr. Bobzien at RA?

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [connectionnews@papers.com](mailto:connectionnews@papers.com)/Calendar/ by noon Friday.

#### 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](mailto:huntermillRSVP@fairfaxcounty.gov) for more.

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Conference.** 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 750 Peachtree St., Herndon. Keynote speakers include Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Ralph Martin & Fr. James Searby. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge. Visit

<https://sjcherndon.org/> or call 571-215-8731 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. Visit [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela](http://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela).

#### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 8

**Saturday Night in the Suburbs.** 7 p.m. at South Lakes High School,

11400 South Lakes Dr., Reston. A panel of high school seniors will be featured, talking openly about alcohol and drug use, teen parties, social media, parent supervision and enabling, and communication with parents. Middle school and high school parents are encouraged to attend. Visit [www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org/](http://www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org/) for more.

# Musical Good Times at CenterStage

## “Rock of Ages” produced by Reston Community Players.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**R**eturn to the glorious days of 1980s’ rock. It was a time of big rock bands, big electric guitar solos and plenty of big hair matched with big egos. It is all coming back courtesy of the Reston Community Players with “Rock of Ages,” a musical nominated for Tony Awards including Best Musical.

What can audiences expect? “Rock of Ages” director Joshua Redford said, “As the song goes, ‘Nothin’ but a good time.’ The music is the best of ’80s rock. It is one big concert with scenes thrown in for good measure.”

With 15 cast members and a five-piece band led by music director Matt Jeffrey right on stage, CenterStage will have a rock concert atmosphere. “The band is as much a part of the show as any musical I’ve seen,” said Redford. Favorite songs from Styx, Whitesnake, REO Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Twisted Sister and others will be heard.

“Choreographer Chris Dore, has put together very energetic and fun routines. The choreography is unlike anything you’ve seen at RCP before. Each



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

**Joshua Redford, director, “Rock of Ages” at CenterStage, Reston Community Center**

member of the ensemble is an exceptional dancer,” said Redford.

As for the show’s plot to go along with the live music; an aspiring rock star, Drew, and aspiring actress, Sherrie, are trying to prevent developers from turning the Sunset Strip into a strip mall.

Claire O’Brien Jeffrey plays Sherrie. She described Sherrie as “a small town girl, living in a lonely world.” She has come to L.A. from Kansas to pursue her dream of being an actress, despite her parents’ objections. She’s sweet and ambitious and probably a little too trusting of other people. She is determined to make her dreams come true.

## Where & When

Reston Community Players present “Rock of Ages” at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods Village Center, Reston. Performances: March 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 and April 1, 2017 at 8 p.m., March 19 and March 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$21-\$25. Call 703-476-4500 or visit [www.restonplayers.com](http://www.restonplayers.com)

For Melrose Pyne who plays a groupie-like waitress, “There is just something special about a jukebox musical. The audience is already familiar with the music so it’s like you can feel them breathing and experiencing the material with you in a way that’s different than most musicals.

“You don’t need to be an ’80s baby to love this show. The music is amazing, the dancing will blow your mind, and you’ll be up dancing and singing with us by the end of this show. The wigs alone are enough reason to come,” said Pyne.

## CALENDAR

Send entertainment announcements to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](mailto:skating@restontowncenter.com) [restontowncenter.com/skating](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:ridingfree2@gmail.com). 703-956-9560. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

### 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](http://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](http://restonarts.org) or call 703-471-9242 for more.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 4

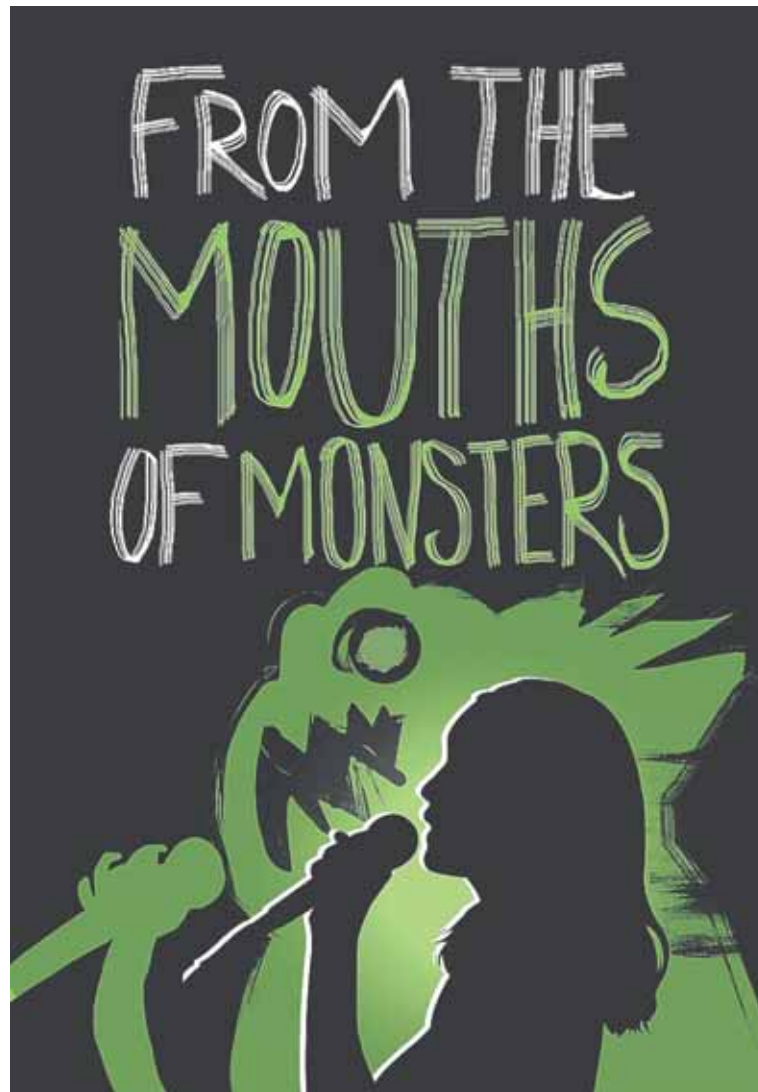
**Family Fun Saturdays.** Throughout the day at Fountain Square, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Activities include:

- ❖ Carousel Rides, noon-5 p.m.
- ❖ Free S’Mores and Hot Chocolate, 1 p.m., while supplies last
- ❖ Fairfax Jubil-aire Performance, 1-3 p.m.
- ❖ Free Ice Skating, 1-4 p.m.

Visit [cornerstonesva.org/rest-on](http://cornerstonesva.org/rest-on), email [ON@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:ON@cornerstonesva.org), or call Cornerstones at 571-323- 9555 for more.

**Children’s Cooking Class.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Pizza-making cooking class for kids. \$18.95, includes pizza, soft drinks and gelato. For reservations, visit [banquets.reston@ilfo.com](mailto:banquets.reston@ilfo.com) or call 703-437-5544 for more.

**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.



**On March 17-19 Herndon High School Theater presents “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](http://herndonhighschooltheatre.ticketleap.com) for more.**

\$20 for members/\$25 for nonmembers. Reservation deadline Wednesday, March 1. Call 540-521-

1692 or email [mssheinman@yahoo.com](mailto:mssheinman@yahoo.com) for more. **Atlas Intersections Festival.** 8 p.m.

# Derek Jasper's 'Epiphany' at NextStop

An evening of mind reading and the unusual.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Local audience demand has been so robust that Evan Hoffmann, NextStop Theatre's artistic director, said he "had to bring back Derek Jasper to the NextStop stage for a third time. It will be an evening of live entertainment like no other."

Jasper is a magician, mentalist, deception expert, and Herndon native. "Jasper wows NextStop audiences each time he performs. He is very impressive, so I am thrilled to bring him back."

A South Lakes High School graduate, Jasper gives performances that combine sleight of hand, psychology, and confidence games. Add in magic, comedy, mystery, and his elegant style and the evening is meant to be

a wondrous one. The audience becomes part of the show as he brings the magic close to them, along with surprises.

Jasper has performed for over 15 years. It all started when he "read the original stories of 'Sherlock Holmes' and fell in love with this idea of being able to look at someone and seemingly know everything I could possibly need to know about them," said Jasper.

"Then I started to develop my skills in observation, psychology, and other various

## Where & When

NextStop Theatre presents "Epiphany" with Derek Jasper at 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Performance Friday, March 10 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$25. Call Ovationtix at 866-811-4111 or visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org)

skill sets such as hypnosis and memory development," added Jasper. After more than 1,500 live performances and shows, Jasper indicated his shows are not about "fooling people but connecting with them."

At the Dulles Corridor's NextStop Theatre, Jasper will perform his "Epiphany" show. He will be a solo performer close to the audience with not only a beautiful set, but "some interesting prop choices" meant to captivate, he said.

The "Epiphany" show itself will be "sculpted around the idea of observation," said Jasper. "As a mentalist, I am trained to notice all of the 'little details'



Derek Jasper performing "Epiphany" at NextStop Theater.

that people would normally not notice. 'Epiphany' is all about me taking the audience behind the curtain and showing them the world through the eyes of a mentalist."

Jasper wants to invite audiences who have seen him before or are new to his special kind of magic, mind reading, and a touch of the unusual and the bizarre. "I would like the audience to leave the theater with a better understanding of the world around them. I want them to have their minds

challenged and experience something they wouldn't be able to anywhere else in the world," said Jasper.

## CALENDAR

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) for more.

### MARCH 8-9

**Farm Animals Bedtime.** 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Learn how animals such as cows, pigs and goats get ready for some shut-eye. Bring a flashlight or lantern along, and please dress for the weather. Call 703-437-9101 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 11

**Family Fun Saturdays.** Throughout the day at Fountain Square, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Activities include:

- ❖ Dog Adoptions with Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, 11-3 p.m.
- ❖ Free Sweet Treats, 1 p.m., while supplies last
- ❖ Balloon Artist, 1-4 p.m.
- ❖ Live Music, 2-4 p.m.

Visit [cornerstonesva.org/rest-on](http://cornerstonesva.org/rest-on), email [ON@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:ON@cornerstonesva.org), or call Cornerstones at 571-323-9555 for more.

**Children's Cooking Class.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center.

Pizza-making cooking class for kids. \$18.95, includes pizza, soft drinks and gelato. For reservations, visit [banquets.reston@ilfo.com](mailto:banquets.reston@ilfo.com) or call 703-437-5544 for more.

**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](http://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/](http://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](http://praces.com/luckyleprechaun) or call 703-689-0999.

**Nonprofit Event.** 1-5 p.m. at The Avant at Reston Town Center, 12025 Town Square St., Reston. CTaBois, founder of the International Association for Self-Proclaimed Artists and Writers, is holding her first art exhibition to benefit the effort in Thailand. Visit [www.ctabois.com](http://www.ctabois.com) for more.

**Opening Reception.** 2-4 p.m. at Reston Art Gallery & Studios, Lake Anne Village Center, 11400 Washington Plaza W # B, Reston. Joan Kelly's new show called "New Directions," which continues through March 29. Visit [www.restonartgallery.com/](http://www.restonartgallery.com/) for more.

### MARCH 12-29

**"New Directions" Exhibit.** 2-4 p.m. at Reston Art Gallery & Studios, Lake Anne Village Center, 11400 Washington Plaza W # B, Reston. Joan Kelly is the artist behind this show. Visit [www.restonartgallery.com/](http://www.restonartgallery.com/) for more.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 14

**Farm Animals Bedtime.** 7-8 p.m. at



## Trout Fishing Day

**Kids' Trout Fishing Day, Saturday, March 18 from 8 a.m.-noon at Snakeden Branch Stream between Soapstone Drive and Lake Audubon. Snakeden Branch will be well stocked with hundreds of trout. All necessary equipment will be provided and Trout Unlimited members will help clean the fish. Registration is required. Ages 2-12. To register, reserve a fishing rod go to <http://bit.ly/2017TroutFishingDay>. To volunteer, contact Ha Brock at 703-435-7986 or [habrock@reston.org](mailto:habrock@reston.org).**

Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Learn how animals such as cows, pigs and goats get ready for some shut-eye. Bring a flashlight or lantern along, and please dress for the weather. Call 703-437-9101 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 16

**Farm Animals Bedtime.** 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Learn how animals such as cows, pigs and goats get

ready for some shut-eye. Bring a flashlight or lantern along, and please dress for the weather. Call 703-437-9101 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/).

### 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](http://herndonhighschooltheatre.ticketleap.com)

for more.

### 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](http://restonarts.org) or call 703-471-9242.

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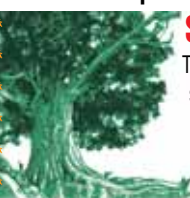
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## OBITUARY Mary Rust Sutphin

Born: January 4, 1936

Died February 22, 2017

Mary R. Sutphin, 81, passed away peacefully at home in the company of her faithful companion Gizmo. She was a long-time Leesburg resident and a graduate of Herndon High School. She was predeceased by her husband Delbert Sutphin, her parents, Claude and Mary Rust, and her sister Martha Hummer. Mary is survived by brother Robert Rust; her children Mary Keith Cramer (Bo Herrman) and Lin Sutphin (Jacquelynn); eight grandchildren Janice Muldoon (Matt), John Cramer (Leslie), Trae Sutphin, Robert Cramer (Liz), Tyler Peacher, Luke Herrman, Lincoln Sutphin and Grant Sutphin; and eight great grandchildren Marcus Sutphin, Emmie Cramer, Eva Cramer, Madison Muldoon, Malachi Cramer, Brantley Burlingame, Obidiah Cramer, and Anna Cramer.

The family will be receiving visitors at Colonial Funeral Home in Leesburg, VA on Monday February 27 from 6-8PM and on Tuesday February 28 from 11AM to 12PM. Services will be held at 12PM at Colonial followed by interment at Union Cemetery in Leesburg.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 1178, Leesburg, VA 20177 in gratitude for their kindness and service.

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## Still "Dating"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's not as if I haven't written about this date: 2/27, before (try last week, Ken), but as I sit at my desk and stare at the calendar hanging on the wall to my front right, the date jumps out at me. Not that I approach it with any fear or trepidation, but I do approach it for days, weeks and even months, calculating my past and contemplating my future. Cancer has a way of marking time, and leaving marks — figuratively and literally.

Mostly I have weathered the cancer storm, eight years and counting/hoping. And as much as I don't want to define myself as a cancer patient/survivor and live my life waiting for the other shoe to drop, it's difficult not to when your feet are so swollen from years of chemotherapy that you're now forced to wear your sneakers without laces. What I lose in support, I gain in comfort. Shoes I can't wear any more. The leather soles don't cushion my feet enough to not fatigue my legs. The shoe can't drop if I'm not wearing it, right? Hardly. It can drop at any time. Certainly it can drop after my quarterly scans, hearing that tumor and/or fluid growth has recurred or anytime in between when new symptoms appear and persist (for two to three weeks, my oncologist has advised). The trick is; heck, there is no trick.

And as much as I'd like to live this date as any other, the date on which one is diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV and given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis by an oncologist, is a date that cannot be lived normally. February 27, 2009 is a date, to invoke Franklin Delano Roosevelt, that will live in my infamy. February 27, 2009 was a Friday. We had scheduled a mid-morning appointment. My brother, Richard (my one surviving immediate family member), met my wife, Dina and I (Team Lourie as I've become accustomed to calling us) in the lobby of the HMO and together we took the elevator up to the third floor (can you say somber?) where we were to meet an oncologist — a man whom I had never met or heard of before, to learn exactly what the previous week's biopsy being malignant, meant.

After the awkward introductions, the oncologist spent the next 10 minutes or so examining me in an adjacent room. Upon completing the examination, we all reassembled in the doctor's office where he proceeded to review/read the results/assessments from the previous seven weeks of tests/examinations from the pulmonologist, the radiologist, the thoracic surgeon and the associated diagnostic procedures completed: X-Rays, CT Scan, P.E.T. Scan, and of course, the biopsy. The medical opinions started off bad and got worse: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, a "terminal" disease. In listening to the reports, there seemed to be little doubt as to the diagnosis. And so it was clear to my oncologist how to proceed: chemotherapy infusions to begin as soon as possible; to occur every three weeks for six cycles with face-to-face appointments and CT Scans to follow. And though it wasn't, and it hasn't been pretty, generally it has — presumably, kept me alive and in reasonably good spirits, all things considered, and some of those things considered have included some non-Western alternatives.

So here I am, nearly eight years to the date when my old life (pre-diagnosis) ended and my new life — as a cancer patient, began. I wouldn't call it a metamorphosis, more like an upheaval. Somehow though, as the time, treatment and routine passed, I began to assimilate and integrate my new reality into my age 54 and a half head and figure a way forward. I can't say it's been fun, but the more I can laugh and find humor in my less-than-ideal circumstances, the more positive I can be about the negative. A negative which has already done enough damage on its own.

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

## COMMENTARY

# Time to Stand Up

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

The General Assembly has adjourned its annual session. In future columns I will write about bills that survived the Governor's veto pen and those that did not. In the final days of the session we honored once again a then young woman named Barbara Johns who contributed so much to the history of Virginia. On Feb. 23 Gov. Terry McAuliffe dedicated the renovated former Richmond Hotel and now Office of the Attorney General as the Barbara Johns Building. Barbara is also honored on the grounds of the State Capitol with a statue of her, prominently part of the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial.

Her story is a very meaningful one in the civil rights movement in Virginia, and her example of leadership is one that must be emulated today. Barbara attended Robert Russa Moton High School. While the white children in the community went to a brick school, her school was an overcrowded, dilapidated tar paper shanty. She was frustrated with the conditions of the facility. She dreamed of a school where the students did not have to keep their coats on all day to stay warm and where classes were not held in the auditorium.

In April 1951, (before Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King Jr.'s movements), Ms. Johns, at 16 years old, organized a strike at her school. She felt her idea to strike was divinely inspired and sought no outside validation for her actions. She was just a junior in high school when she met with several of her classmates to organize. On April 23, 1951, more than 450 Moton High

School students walked out of their school and marched to the courthouse and to the homes of local school officials to protest the conditions of their school. A few days into the strike, the students contacted the NAACP for legal counsel. Civil rights lawyers from the NAACP filed a lawsuit asking for full integration of the county's public schools. The students who wished to file suit combined their names into a list, and Dorothy E. Davis, the daughter of a local farmer, was the first to add her name to the list. One month later, the NAACP filed "Davis vs. County School Board of Prince Edward County" (named after Dorothy Davis) in federal court. The case was appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court combined its ruling in the Davis case with four other similar cases to form the landmark 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas that declared the segregation of public schools unconstitutional.

Although the Davis case did not result in the desegregation of Prince Edward County's public schools — it took 10 years and 40 lawsuits to overcome Massive Resistance — Ms. John's actions were vital for the future of the civil rights movements.

In the words of Gov. McAuliffe, "Ms. Johns' history is a lasting reminder to inspire men and women to fight for justice and equality and reminds us of the enormous impact one person can have when they fearlessly stand up for what they believe is right."

Barbara Johns stood up to what she knew was wrong. Her example is one that those who ask "what can I do?" must follow today.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4

These roads — and the development that will go with them — would not be built in the absence of the tax because developers do not think developing the surrounding property would otherwise be profitable. From your pocket to developers' profits. Worse, the tax-subsidized development will generate more traffic, not relieve congestion as Hudgins and FCDOT claim is the purpose of the tax. In fact, worse traffic congestion is the explicit goal of the plan

as the level of service standard is lowered.

So, if you want the full story, please make sure you read our earlier op-ed in the Reston Connection or take a look at the Reston 20/20 blog.

If you think the proposed Reston road tax is another Reston rip-off, let Supervisor Hudgins know. Also, please sign our petition to stop the road tax on [Change.org](http://Change.org).

Thank you for considering the whole Reston road tax picture.

**Terry Maynard,**  
Co-Chair, Reston 20/20 Committee

## NEWS

# Proposal Kicked Off the Table

FROM PAGE 5

"While I appreciate the passion that people have for their neighborhoods, I think that it's really kind of horrifying to hear people accuse our CEO of underhanded activities," she said during the meeting. "I'm glad to see [the proposal] move off the table, but agree ... we do need to be able to talk about things."

The park has existed at its current location since before 1980, according to Mike Leone, an RA spokesperson.

According to the RA's latest reserve study, which was published in 2014, the Lake Newport Soccer fields have many years left before the study recommends their replacement. In 2014, the upper field had 27 years left of useful life and the lower field had 11 years left of useful life before maintenance was required.

The study also recommended for RA to be prepared to allocate \$487,186 of reserve funding for the replacement of both grass fields.

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