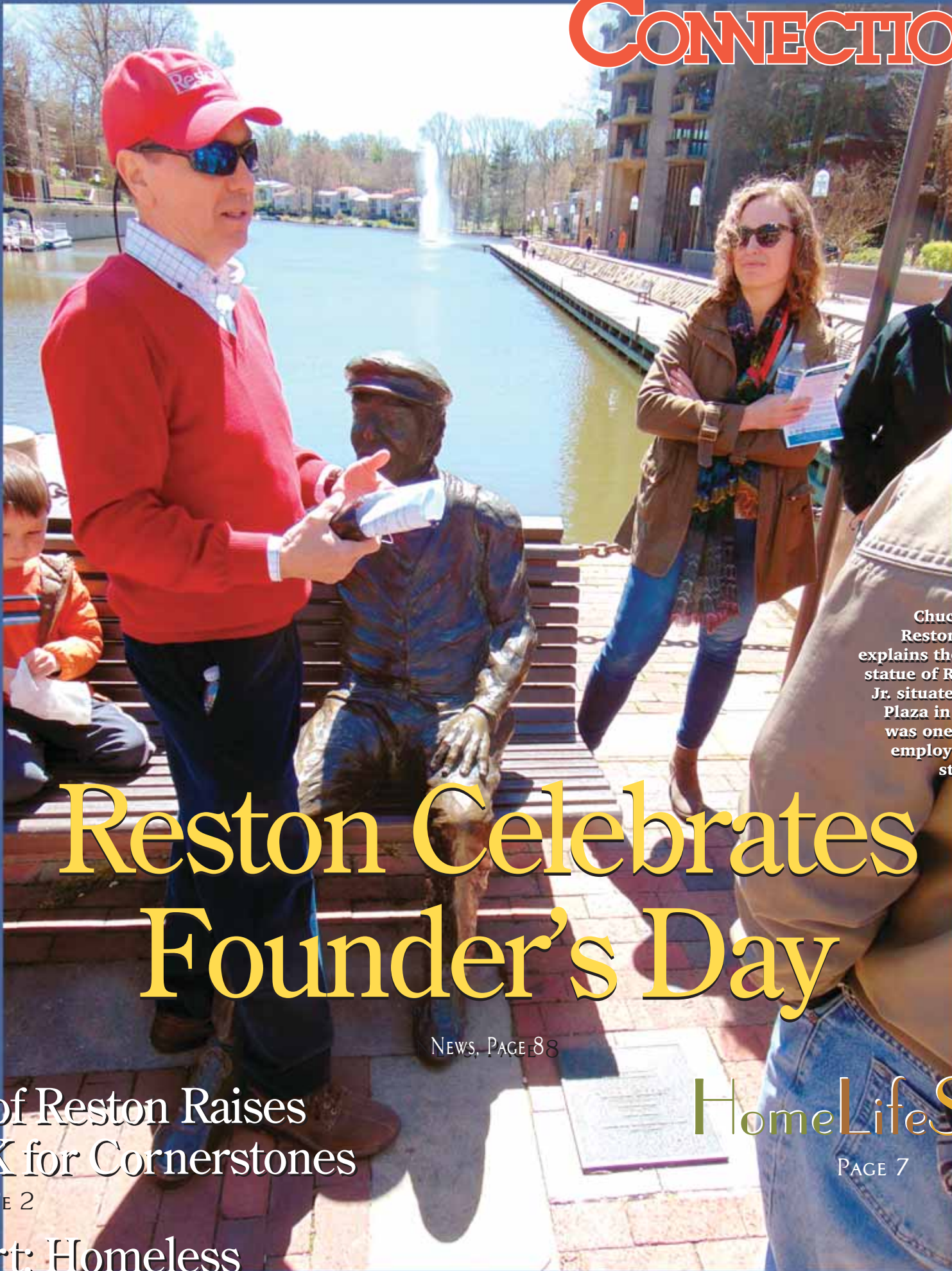


EASTER FUN   
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 Reston  
CONNECTION



Chuck Veatch of the Reston Historic Trust explains the origins of the statue of Robert E. Simon Jr. situated at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Veatch was one of the original employees of Simon's, starting in 1964.

# Reston Celebrates Founder's Day

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Best of Reston Raises \$515K for Cornerstones

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Report: Homeless Population Down 47 Percent

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# Best of Reston Raises \$515K for Cornerstones

**Celebration of giving back to serve people in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, childcare and other human services.**

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**R**eston raised over \$515,000 in one night to help those in need in their community.

The money was raised at the Hyatt Regency Reston hotel in the Reston Town Center during the 26th Annual Best of Reston Awards Gala on Thursday, April 6. The awards recognize those in the Reston community —people, businesses and organizations— involved in giving back to the greater Reston and Dulles corridor.

“Sometimes they list me in the program as the auctioneer, but I don’t have anything tangible to sell,” Virginia Del. Ken Plum (D-36) said during the gala before leading attendees in an auction to benefit Cornerstones. “Fact of the matter is, I’m not really even an auctioneer. But what I do have to offer for you is what you can do for the people who are in need ... Here, we’re going to talk about hope and that’s what I’m going to ask you to join with me to do is to buy some hope for some people.”

The \$515,435 raised was presented at the end of the night in a check to Cornerstones,



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

**2017 Best of Reston Co-Chairs Doug Bushée and Charlene Wheelless, Charles Kapur and Mark Ingrao of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Kerrie Wilson and Sara Leonard of Cornerstones hold a giant check in the amount of \$515,345 that was raised from the awards gala that evening.**

which the nonprofit organization will use to support its mission to serve people in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, childcare and other human services.

Presented in partnership by Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, the gala has raised funds for Cor-

nerstones’ social services while showcasing community and corporate involvement for the past 26 years.

“For the 22 finalists and the incredible honorees that we’ve met tonight, you are making a difference and it is in the spirit of everything that is Reston,” Cornerstones

CEO Kerrie Wilson said during the gala. “The work we’re doing now throughout the region, we thank you and we really want to celebrate and honor your work tonight.”

She took some time to remind gala goers of the reason driving their work.

“I think it’s always surprising to everyone that right here around the block is a homeless shelter where —last year— 600 men, women and children stayed there temporarily while we helped to find them homes,” Wilson said.

She was referring to the Embury Rucker Shelter that is supported by Cornerstones that sits in the “shadow of the Reston Town Center” on Bowman Towne Drive, she said.

This shelter was the site where Wilson helped unveil the county’s 2017 Homeless Point In Time Count earlier in the week, which saw a reduction in the homeless population.

“I’m so proud to say ... in eight short years, 47 percent reduction in homelessness in Fairfax County,” she said. “There are many of my homeless partners ... in this room who are a big part of that and helped us get there.”

While the night was meant to celebrate incredible acts of kindness and the success of Cornerstones’ work, Wilson told the audience that they still “have a lot to do ... and it’s important that we keep going because we still need to do more.”

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## Best of Reston Winners

The 26th Annual Best of Reston Awards Gala celebrated the community service being done to support Cornerstones and its overarching goal to end homelessness. Out of 22 award finalists, eight honorees were revealed during the gala:

1. Small Business Leader Award: CST Group
2. Civic-Community Organization Award: Women Giving Back
3. Civic-Community Organization Award: Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts
4. Large Business Service Award: Odin, Feldman and Pittleman
5. Individual Community Leader Award: Bill Keefe
6. Family Service Award: Gillian and Vincent Sescoc
7. The Vade Bolton – Ann Rodriguez Legacy Award: Herb Williams-Baffoe
8. Robert E Simon Lifetime Achievement Award: Vicky Wingert



**Joseph Romagnoli, managing partner of CST Group, accepts the Small Business Leader Award on behalf of his certified public accounting firm. Employees of the firm helped Cornerstones use the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credits Program to the tune of \$800,000 over the past two years.**



**Arvind Manocha, president and CEO of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, accepts the Civic-Community Organization Award on behalf of the foundation. More than 78,000 children and adults participate in Wolf Trap's education programs.**



**Bill Keefe accepts the Individual Community Leader Award for his demonstration of devotion and commitment to serving Reston. He has been a board member of both the Reston Community Center and the Reston Association; a member of the Reston Planning and Zoning Committee, Reston 2000 and the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force; and a coach and referee for Reston Youth Basketball and Reston Youth Baseball.**



**Terri Stagi, president of the Women Giving Back Board of Directors, accepts the Civic-Community Organization Award on behalf of the organization, which provides free clothing to transitionally homeless women and children to help them enter the workplace and school with confidence.**



**John McBride, shareholder of Odin, Feldman and Pittleman, accepts the Large Business Service Award on behalf of his law firm, which has provided financial contributions, pro-bono support and advice to local nonprofit organizations.**



**Herb Williams-Baffoe, Sports Director at the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, accepts the Vade Bolton – Ann Rodriguez Legacy Award for his counseling and mentoring of youth.**



**Vicky Wingert accepts the Robert E. Simon Lifetime Achievement Award, which was created to recognize past Best of Reston honorees who continue to demonstrate selfless dedication and service to the community. Before Simon's death, the award was always chosen by Reston's founder. There have only been eight individuals who have been granted the award, who are known as Robert E. Simon Fellows: Joseph Ritchey, 2009; Charles "Chuck" Veatch, 2010; Jim and Karen Cleveland, 2011; Priscilla Ames, 2011; William "Bill" Bouie, 2013; Lynn Lilienthal, 2015; and Vicky Wingert, 2017.**

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



**Gillian Sescoc accepts the Family Service Award for herself and her husband, Vincent Sescoc. Both long-time teachers, Gillian runs the free American Citizenship Class at Cornerstones that has helped more than 100 people from 22 countries become U.S. citizens. Vincent has volunteered for the past 20 years for programs that help people with job search and interviewing skills. Vincent stands next to Gillian while award presenter Robert Van Hoecke, member of Cornerstones Board of Directors, and a former student stand on the stage.**



**Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones, provides heart-felt closing remarks at the gala.**

# OPINION

## Your Award Winning Papers

**Richmond Times-Dispatch (daily) and the Mount Vernon Gazette/Local Media Connection (non-daily), win the VPA's highest awards.**

**V**irginia Press Association's highest award, the VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, went to Local Media Connection/Mount Vernon Gazette for coverage and editorials throughout 2016 relating to police reform in Fairfax County.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch won in the daily category for its series about the death of a mentally ill prisoner, Jamycheal Mitchell, in a Portsmouth Jail.

The judges noted, "The Mount Vernon Gazette covered the complex issue of police reform from February through December 2016, sparked by the shooting of an unarmed man by a Fairfax County police officer. ... The Gazette focused community attention on the case, particularly on the efforts of citizens and representatives of law enforcement agencies working together on reforming police practice. This led to the creation and implementation of a Civilian Review Panel to provide oversight of police policy, procedures and activities. ... The approach of the Gazette in this matter provides a good illustration of the positive role a community newspaper can play when it takes an activist approach to issues of importance to its readers." Editor Mary Kimm and reporter Tim Peterson accepted the award.

Virginia Press Association honored its 2016 award winners on Saturday, April 8, 2017 in Richmond at its annual dinner. The Connection papers, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, garnered more than 35 awards in many categories, including investigative reporting, education coverage, headline writing, photography, column writing, sports writing, obitu-



PHOTO BY ROBIN MOGLE

**Local Media Connection writers and photographers won 37 Virginia Press Association awards for work in 2016, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service. Pictured here from left, John Bordner, Mark Mogle, Mary Kimm, Shirley Ruhe, Tim Peterson, Vernon Miles, Eden Brown, Andrea Worker and Jeanne Theismann.**

aries, environmental writing, food writing, graphics, and more.

Shirley Ruhe was the top award winner, earning seven different awards including two first place awards, one for investigative reporter for her series on sex trafficking.

Other first place award winners include photographer Mark Mogle, who also won two first places; Bonnie Hobbs for General News for her coverage of the rise and fall of the mayor of the City of Fairfax; Eden Brown for Education writing; Tim Peterson for Public Safety writ-

ing and for Sports writing; Joan Brady for Feature Series on foster care alumni success stories; Jeanne Theismann for headline writing; Alexandra Greeley for food writing. Steven Mauren, editor-in-chief, won first place for Editorial Pages in Alexandria Gazette Packet, along with Mary Kimm, cartoonist Steve Artley, and designers Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

**Mary Kimm and Tim Peterson accepted the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service.**

Cartoon, Alexandria Gazette Packet

- ❖ **Vernon Miles**, 3rd Place, Feature Writing Portfolio, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Jon Roetman**, 3rd Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, McLean Connection
- ❖ **Jean Card**, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles, 3rd Place, Informational Graphics, Guide to the Parks, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 3rd Place, General News Writing, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, Informational Graphics, Real Estate Map, Great Falls
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, 3rd Place, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 3rd Place, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 3rd Place, Feature Writing Portfolio, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

## 2016 Virginia Award Winners

- ❖ Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, the association's highest award, went to **Local Media Connection/Mount Vernon Gazette** for coverage and editorials relating to police reform in Fairfax County.
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 1st Place, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Arlington, Investigative Series-Sex Trafficking
- ❖ **Mark Mogle**, 1st Place, General News Photo, Wreaths Across America, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Eden Brown**, 1st Place, Education Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 1st Place, Column Writing, People at Work, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, 1st Place, Headline Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Steven Mauren, Mary Kimm, Steve Artley, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong**, 1st Place, Editorial Pages, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Mark Mogle**, 1st Place, Picture Story or Essay, "Plaid Tidings," Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 1st Place, Public Safety Writing, Burke Connection
- ❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, 1st Place, General News Writing, Fairfax Mayor Caught in Sex-for-Meth Sting, Fairfax Connection
- ❖ **Joan Brady**, 1st Place, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Alexandra Greeley**, 1st Place, Personal Service Writing, Food Features, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 1st Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, Springfield Connection
- ❖ **John Bordner**, 2nd Place, General News Photo,

- Kluge Farewell, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Feature Series, Homelessness, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Kemal Kurspahic and Staff**, 2nd Place, General Makeup, Fairfax Connection
- ❖ **Marilyn Campbell**, 2nd Place, Personal Service Writing, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- ❖ **Jon Roetman**, 2nd Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Column Writing, In the Kitchen, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles**, 2nd Place, Informational Graphics, Guide to the Parks, Fairfax Station Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Personality or Portrait Photo, Vienna-Oakton Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 2nd Place, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Andrea Worker, Donald Sweig, Ken Moore, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, Front Page Design, Reston Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 3rd Place, Personal Service Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, General Makeup, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 3rd Place, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Eden Brown**, 3rd Place, General News Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, 3rd Place, Personal Service Writing, Obituaries, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Steve Artley**, 3rd Place, Illustrations, Editorial

Reston  
**CONNECTION**

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
**reston@connectionnewspapers.com**

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Fallon Forbush**  
Reporter  
[fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kyle Kincaid**  
Editorial Assistant  
[reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
**sales@connectionnewspapers.com**  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Andrea Smith**  
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
[classified@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:classified@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)



# County Ready to Implement Next Phase of Diversion First

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK  
(R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)



## COMMENTARY

**F**airfax County continues to make substantial progress on a program called "Diversion First." This program provides treatment instead of incarceration for people with mental health issues or developmental disabilities who come into contact with law enforcement for low-level offenses. With Diversion First, an officer can identify a suspect as needing supportive services, and can bring him or her to the Community Services Board (CSB) instead of making an arrest. Instead of making an arrest, officers bringing low-level offenders to the CSB saves the County money, time, and resources. Last year, 375 people were diverted from arrest into treatment- which represents a huge accomplishment. This is not the only opportunity for diversion, however. The County is now pursuing the next phase of the Diversion First program, with a focus on making diversions after this initial contact with law enforcement.

Imagine you or I were arrested for a low-level crime, such as trespassing or disorderly conduct, on a Saturday night. We may be held until Monday or Tuesday. We could then probably post a bond for a few hundred dollars and be released. People with mental illness or developmental disabilities, however, often have troubled employment histories, and do not have that money. They are often detained for months awaiting trial.

During this time, the County is paying approximately \$200 per day to hold them, all while their mental state is deteriorating. By their next hearing date, these individuals have often spent as much or more time in jail awaiting their day in court than if they had been found guilty of the original charges, resulting in a release based on "time served." They leave in a worse condition than when they entered. Eighty percent of the time, they will repeat their criminal behavior.

Diversion First breaks this cycle. It pro-

vides judges with a treatment alternative at the bonding hearing, when the judge can offer "supervised release" instead of bail. Supervised release requires mandatory treatment, with supervision by a trained probation officer. The person gets treatment and can recover. Then they can be released from criminal charges later if treatment is successful.

Studies show this treatment alternative can reduce the reoccurrence of criminal activity to as low as 20 percent. That means a 60 percent reduction in crime (from 80 percent to 20) from this population. Literally hundreds of crimes can be prevented each year. With jail costing around \$200 per day, and treatment only a few thousand dollars per year, over time the County will save significant funds.

This program is a win-win. Treatment improves lives. Crime will be reduced. Taxpayers will save long-term money. We must continue the progress of Diversion First by implementing these new avenues for diversion. This will allow the County to direct resources more efficiently, allow the Police to save time, and help people with disabilities improve their lives.

# Sense of Impending Changes

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



## COMMENTARY

**N**early two hours of the eight-and-a-half-hour reconvened session of the House of Delegates of the General Assembly were taken up last week by speeches from retiring members and acknowledgement speeches by others about their service and achievement. The length of the tribute time was driven in large part by the fact that eight members, all of whom are Republicans, are retiring. Heading the list is the Speaker of the House followed by a senior member who chairs the important Courts Committee. For some like the Speaker the longevity of service was a key factor. Others cited family and financial concerns. Another one or two may reappear running for another office. Legislative service that is considered part time with a low level of remuneration but takes full time commitment always has some turnover, but the number this year is significant.

Another factor that may have influenced some decisions is the sense of changing political winds in the Commonwealth.

Never in my years of service have I gotten as many phone calls, postcards and emails as I have this year. Traditional groups have gotten re-energized, and many new groups have formed. Activism is in the air. For me, it has been reassuring. As a progressive, I feel less like I am speaking into the wind and more like there is a force of people behind me. For years I worked on the redistricting issue almost alone and now thousands of people are contacting their legislators asking that they support redistricting reform. The public has become keenly aware of the adverse impact that gerrymandering has had on the legislature.

The signs of change were evident in the reconvened session last week. While the House of Delegates did not respond favorably to my plea that we approve an amendment by the Governor to expand Medicaid, there was discussion by majority party leaders in the House and Senate that a new group is going to be looking at how medical services can be expanded to the poorest in our state. I continue to be

amazed at the argument that leaving \$40 billion on the table in federal dollars could somehow be considered "fiscally responsible."

The majority party may have felt somewhat humbled by the fact that the legislature upheld 40 vetoes of bills by the Governor extending the record of his administration to 111 with none being over-ridden. Of course, a two-thirds vote is required, but in the House only a couple of deflections by Democrats would have made an override possible. The vetoes by Governor McAuliffe have kept Virginia out of the news with crazy legislation that has passed in other states.

Certainly there is also an eye to November with 77 Democrats lining up to challenge 49 Republican incumbents. As that number is reduced by primaries and conventions, it leaves hotly contested races that could dramatically change who is in charge in the House and/or the attitude of those left in charge. Democrats have challengers to incumbents in the 17 districts held by Republicans that were won by Hillary Clinton. For those who continue to ask what they can do, there is a clear sense emerging that much can be done this year to put Virginia on a more progressive track.

## LETTERS

### Offended by 'Snide Remarks'

To the Editor:

I am offended by the continual snide remarks in his column made by John Lovaas about President Trump. You are supposed to be a community newspaper – not a political rag – unless I am mistaken. I would like you to find one of your publications that made a similar nasty comment about former President Obama. If you can, then I will back off. If you can't, then I rest my case. You are not being fair and balanced.

**Lynn Pacenta**  
Reston, VA

### Who Needs to Apologize?

To the Editor:

On March 22, the Virginia Republican Party made it their business to demand an apology from AG Mark Herring for attending a town hall at a Falls Church Mosque. They are following the campaign strategy of Donald Trump — empowering hate and intolerance in Northern Virginia.

And it seems to be working. Since March 22, three separate hate incidents occurred here in Northern Virginia. A home was ransacked and a Koran was vandalized. In another instance someone spray painted swastikas on a building, and in a park, boulders were defaced with derogatory graffiti and words.

It is not Herring who needs to apologize – it is the Virginia Republican Party who owe us an apology and to change their campaign strategy from fear and loathing to one with positive ideas to improve Virginia and the lives of Virginians.

**Diana Smith**  
Reston

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed.

Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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## NEWS

# Supervisors Approve Reston Transit Area Tax

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a new service district that will start taxing homeowners in 2018. The board approved the new tax during a public hearing on Tuesday, April 4.

The tax is one of the funding mechanisms for a 40-year, \$2.2 billion Reston Transportation Funding Plan that the board previously approved on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

A road fund, which was also approved on Feb. 28, and the new service district will affect those who own property within the Reston Transit Station Areas (TSAs).

The county designated the Reston TSA as land near the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority metrorail stations that are being built to serve Reston and Herndon on the Silver Line: the Reston Town Center, Wiehle-Reston East and Herndon stations.

The service district will affect all property owners in the TSAs, but the road fund is only for new development. By right construction is not subject to the road fund payments.

**THE RATES** of the road fund and service district will be set annually.

For the road fund, the 2018 rates for new development are \$2,090 per dwelling unit for residential property and \$9.56 per square foot of commercial property.

The 2018 service district rate for homeowners was advertised at 2.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value of the property. However, the Board of Supervisors will have to set the final rate during its fiscal year 2018 budget process, according to Fairfax County Department of Transportation



**Only two members of the public testified on the service district. Hank Schonzeit of Reston Town Center testified against it only taxing TSA residents.**



**Robert Perry of Reston testified against the service district only taxing TSA residents. "Everybody uses the roads," he said during the hearing.**

plans. However, the vote was not unanimous.

Only four members voted for the proposed plan; one member voted against; two members abstained; and two members were not present to vote. Though only seven members participated in the vote, it was a quorum.

**BROADER PUBLIC MEETINGS** based on the RNNAG's approved plan did not begin until January, when FCDOT invited the public to two community meetings, where attendees overwhelmingly opposed the plan. One was held in Reston in January and the other was held outside the town of Herndon in February, just days before the first hearing with the Board of Supervisors.

The FCDOT also hosted two community meetings about the service district a week prior to the second public hearing. A third presentation was also given to residents of the Reston Town Center after its homeowners association specifically requested a meeting.

The board voted unanimously in favor of the service district and its advisory board, with two members abstaining: Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth and Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herry.

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

He has Risen indeed!

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**PHOTO GALLERY!**  
**"Me and My Mom"**

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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# HomeLifeStyle

**Remodeler David Foster (left) talks with a homeowner browsing in the recently-opened Design and Selection Center, which is holding an Open House on April 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Open House will feature three seminars, access to representatives from major home improvement product manufacturers, a raffle and chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres.**



**Major vendors and manufacturers participating in the Design Center have increased substantially. Options for cabinet facings, plumbing fixtures, surface materials, tile and flooring are part of the permanent display. Foster designers are regularly exposed to new products and materials.**

## Design Center Educates Homeowners with Remodeling Plans

**Open House, April 22, will feature three seminars, industry experts and new showroom.**

BY JOHN BYRD

**F**oster Remodeling Solutions will launch its new 3,270-square-foot Home Design and Selection Center in Lorton with an open house on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will include seminars on a variety of topics ranging from kitchen and bath design to "How to Plan a Successful Remodeling," to steps entailed in introducing "Aging-in-Place" modifications into the home. Seminar presenters are recognized experts in their respective specialties. Representatives from top manufacturers will also be on hand to answer questions about specific products, appliances and emerging technologies. Several manufacturers also will be contributing new products as raffle items.

Visitors can arrive as early as 10 a.m. and browse the newly-expanded Design and Selection Center. Chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served



**Three full-size kitchen displays are now on view in the Lorton showroom. The 3,270 square foot Lorton showroom is one of the largest home improvement product expositions in northern Virginia.**

throughout the day.

There will be several full-sized kitchen and bathroom designs on view, vignettes featuring cabinets, vanities, flooring and lighting, even a full-sized outdoor courtyard which spotlights break-through materials and styles being applied to roofing and siding.

"Our goal is to make it easy for attendees to find answers to an array of home improvement questions in a single day," said David Foster, who has operated Foster Remodeling Solution for over 34 years. "We encourage attendees to come prepared with ques-

tions, drawings and photos, and to bring interested friends and neighbors. All of the offerings are free and open to the public."

### Design and Selection

There are three design consultation rooms that allow homeowners to review in-progress design details of a home improvement on a flat screen television.

"Home improvement is a very dynamic industry," Foster said. "You have to stay ahead of changing technologies and evolving practices. We're expanding methods for



**A home laundry with mudroom features has proven popular in northern Virginia homes.**

PHOTOS BY  
SUZY FOSTER

bringing ideas to homeowners that have already proven successful. ... This Open House will be more of an exposition than we've offered in the past; we're building on what we've learned about local homeowner interests."

The three one-hour seminars will be held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. so that interested parties can attend all three without conflict.

❖ Design consultant Sean McLarty, a veteran remodeler with 33 years of professional experience, will provide tips on "Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling" at 11 a.m.;

❖ Dory Clemens, a space planning specialist, will conduct a seminar at 1 p.m. on "Aging-In-Place" applications. The session will focus how to assess which modifications to your home are most appropriate for near-term and foreseeable needs;

❖ At 3 p.m., Chris Arnold, whose 25 years of remodeling experience embraces every facet of the industry, will discuss "How to Plan a Successful Remodel," including best options for financing a project.

Interested parties can register for the show room opening and for individual seminars online at [www.fosterremodeling.com](http://www.fosterremodeling.com), or by calling 703-350-1371.

*John Byrd ([byrdmatx@gmail.com](mailto:byrdmatx@gmail.com)) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.*



**The April 22 event will feature three seminars: Kitchen and Bath Design, Aging-in-Place Strategies for the Home and How to Plan a Successful Remodel.**



Disney Princesses Anna, Elsa, Ariel, and Moana of the Vienna Singing Princess with Lauren Eaglet.



# Reston Celebrates Founder's Day

## 53rd Anniversary of Reston's founding by Robert E. Simon Jr.

In honor of the 53rd anniversary of Reston's founding by Robert E. Simon Jr., Founder's Day was celebrated on Saturday, April 8 at Lake Anne Plaza. The day included remarks by local dignitaries, a public art walk, musical performances, oral history interviews, an author talk and book signing as well as children's activities.

"Founder's Day is a way for us to celebrate Reston's history and our founder, Bob Simon. Founder's Day is always right around Bob's birthday, which is April 10. We bring people to Lake Anne Plaza, the oldest part of Reston, and have speeches about Bob and the Reston community and musical performances from local schools and community groups," said Beth Didiano, Executive Director of the Reston Historic Trust.



Joshua and Caleb Schweitzer of Reston enjoy ice cream at Kiln & Co. at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston.

In 1961, Simon purchased 6,750 acres of land situated between the nation's capital and the new international airport, and began plans for a new town bearing his initials: RESton. The plan called for seven village centers, each serving a village of 10,000 to 12,000 people and providing retail and plaza areas for community gatherings.

Simon died in September, 2015 at the age of 101.

— STEVE HIBBARD

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Becky Nelson of Reston paints a tattoo on Larry DelGado of Fredericksburg during Founder's Day at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston.



Local politicians Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins at Founder's Day in Reston.



Members of the crowd enjoy the entertainment provided during Founder's Day at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston on Saturday, April 8.



Phoebe Avery of Public Art Reston leads a tour group around Lake Anne Plaza in Reston during Founder's Day.

# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**"First Blooms" Art Show.** through April 30 at Reston Art Gallery Studios, Lake Anne Village Center, 11400 Washington Plaza W # B, Reston. Dorothy Donahey presents her latest works in the show "First Blooms." Visit [www.restonartgallery.com/](http://www.restonartgallery.com/) for more.

**Lake Anne Exhibit.** Deadline is June 2 to enter photographs for the Lake Anne show. The exhibit runs from June 5-July 2 and is free and open to the public 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Visit [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org)

**"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)

## DEADLINE APRIL 15

**Food For Neighbors.** Great Harvest Bread Co. in Herndon will give \$2 to Food For Neighbors for every Honey Bunny purchased to support a program started by Herndon High School parents to distribute food to students in need on Fridays through a Weekend Snack Program. Visit [www.foodforneighbors.org](http://www.foodforneighbors.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 13

**Color Me Happy.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Turn loose the inner artist in this adult coloring session. Coloring pages, pens and pencils provided. For adults, free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

**Egg Hunt.** 9:30 a.m. at 777 Lynn St., Herndon, behind the Herndon Municipal Building. \$9 in advance or \$10 at the event. Visit [herndon-va.gov/](http://herndon-va.gov/)

## THURSDAY/APRIL 20

**Dollars and Sense Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Monthly book group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. April's book is "The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon" by Brad Stone. For adults, free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 21-23

**Guys and Dolls.** Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. at Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. (Enter the school through Door #6.) Cast and crew from Herndon High put on a musical comedy. \$15. Visit [www.herndondrama.org](http://www.herndondrama.org)

## SATURDAY/APRIL 22

**Spring Fling Vendor Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Herndon High School Cafeteria, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Items for sale include arts & crafts, costume jewelry, clothing, books, cosmetics, household items and more. Call 703-810-2200 for more.

**Earth Day Gathering.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St #103, Reston. Celebrate Earth Day with free eco-friendly family art making and exploration in the gallery. Families will make art with upcycled and recycled materials, storytelling by Marcia Wines, and refreshments. Free. Visit [www.restontowncenter.com](http://www.restontowncenter.com)

## EASTER EVENTS IN THE AREA



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Easter at Roer's Zoofari

**On April 15-16, it's the Easter Eggs-Stravaganza, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Roer's Zoofari, at the corner of Hunter Mill Road and Baron Cameron Drive in Vienna. Egg hunts, safari tours, and more. Participants in the Easter Egg hunt are asked to bring their own basket. Call 607-757-6222, or visit [www.roerszoofari.com](http://www.roerszoofari.com) for more.**

## FRIDAY/APRIL 14

**Good Friday.** noon-3 p.m. meditations with organ accompaniment; 7:30 p.m. mass at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Call 703-356-4902 or visit [www.stjohnsmclean.org](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org) for more.

**Good Friday Services.** Noon-3 p.m. at Dranesville Church of the Brethren 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. The service will be the Seven Last Words of Christ featuring six half hour services with six local clergy. Email Rev. Kelly at [tkelly@stfranciscgreatfalls.org](mailto:tkelly@stfranciscgreatfalls.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Bring a basket and hunt for candy and eggs filled with treats, win door prizes and visit the Easter bunny. \$10. Call 703-324-8569 for more.

**Egg Hunt.** 9:30 a.m. at 777 Lynn St., Herndon, behind the Herndon Municipal Building. Story readings, coloring mural, tattoo shack, petting zoo, photo-op with Easter Bunny, instrument "Petting Zoo" brought to you by Bach to Rock. \$9 in advance or \$10 at the event. Visit [herndon-va.gov/](http://herndon-va.gov/) for more.

**Holy Saturday Silent Retreat.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Free. Spend a day in noble silence, meditating and creating a space to be still and listen. Day will be spent alternating between sitting and walking meditation with some periods of stretching. Only a small fraction of meditation practices will be guided. Call 703-281-1767 or register online at [unitysilentretreat.eventbrite.com](http://unitysilentretreat.eventbrite.com).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 16

**Easter Sunrise Service.** 6:30 a.m. at Great Falls Park, 9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Hosted by Great Falls Area Ministries. Contact Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church 703-759-3509 for more.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## International Easter Banquet

**At the 2017 International Easter Banquet in Herndon, more 350 adults and 50 children attended from 48 countries. A group from Reston Bible Church prepared Easter eggs and coordinating the egg hunt, ESOL directors from several locations helped with communications, and individuals from the Open Door Presbyter-ian Church participated as well.**

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were never to  
come, it would  
not be worth  
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-Dagobert Runes

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MRITCOM LLC trading as Pista House, 2316 Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston, VA 20191. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer/Mixed Beverages Restaurant on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Madhav Voleti (Owner). NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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## 21 Announcements

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Madanji, LLC trading as Flippin Pizza, 11130 South Lakes Dr, Suite #F, Reston, VA 20191. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Pratik Patel, owner  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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## Exercising A Demon



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Last night, between 9:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m., I traveled back in time — without leaving my bedroom and without the use of a Time Machine. I went back approximately 41 years to the fall of '73, to my sophomore year in college at The University of Maryland. A group of us decided to go see one of the most talked about movies of the year: "The Exorcist." Talked about because it was filmed locally here in Georgetown and because it was said to be scary as h---.

I believe we saw the movie at the old KB Cinema located on Wisconsin Ave., NW, adjacent to Rodmans. I could be wrong but there's no one to ask, so you'll just have to take my word for it. I remember little else about the evening, other than my return back to my dorm room, #103, at Cumberland Hall in College Park. Though I had a roommate, he had gone home for the weekend so I was all alone. And that is what I remember most, closing the door, shutting off the lights, sitting on my bed and staring into the darkness and seeing Linda Blair's face (from the movie) and being extremely uncomfortable being by myself so soon after having seen the movie. I had a difficult night. I don't remember if I had any nightmares however, but, it was a miserable experience trying to fall asleep. I have not seen "The Exorcist" a second time, in its entirety or in any pieces until last night, despite it being a movie readily available on cable, especially around Halloween.

I would say I saw the last 45 minutes. I saw Linda Blair tied up in her bed. I saw Linda Blair turn her head completely around. I saw projectile vomiting from her mouth. I saw her fiery, yellow eyes and her face all torn up with scars and scabs. I saw her bed shake. I saw her bed levitate. I heard the demon inside her growl, screech, curse and speak backwards and verbally attack all the priests held sacred. I heard the bells chiming in the movie score. I saw plenty but not enough to justify the fear that engulfed me all those many years ago. Having watched the movie again (and having slept peacefully through the evening), it almost feels as if I've survived a rite of passage somehow, faced off against my past and come out reasonably healthy — all things not considered.

Nevertheless, I have no interest in seeing "scary" movies. I guess I don't see the point or rather the point pales in comparison to the fact that I've been diagnosed with cancer: now that's scary. Moreover, having lived over 40 years since having seen "The Exorcist," a few other scary things have happened in life which places a movie in context; it's only celluloid (sort of), it's not real. So I've learned a few things and probably unlearned a lot more. I wouldn't say watching the movie tonight was an epiphany-type moment when the light came on and I realized what I had been missing or perhaps realized what I've been getting. Granted, it's only a movie, and one that's over 40 years old, but it's a movie/experience/ affect that had stuck with me for a long time, and now I'm free of its tentacles.

It reminds of another movie I saw as a young boy, when I was under 10 years old, it scared the h--- out of me and did give me nightmares: "Invaders From Mars," released in 1953. The Martians landed in a field just within view from a little boy's bedroom window in his family's farmhouse. I remember his wide eyes at seeing the light off in the distance. I remember the music. I remember the Martians having a device that made the ground disappear and then reform. I remember the Martian leader's head being carried around in a goldfish-type bowl of something. I don't remember the plot. I just remember being frightened. It wasn't until "The Exorcist" 15 or so years later that I had been similarly scared. And it wasn't until 35 years after seeing "The Exorcist" when I was once again so scared that I had trouble sleeping, and had nightmares, and experienced everything else associated with fear that your life may actually be coming to an end: my non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis in late February 2009. Having survived more than a few years now past my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, maybe I am ready to go see another scary movie? After all, I could probably use the diversion.

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

## THEATRE PREVIEW



PHOTO BY JEFF THOMAS/COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER

Reed Martin, Teddy Spencer and Austin Tichenor in Reduced Shakespeare Company "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)."

## Healing Power of Laughter

### Reduced Shakespeare Company returning to Reston.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

A three decade love affair between Reston and the internationally renowned Reduced Shakespeare Company (RSC) continues. The RSC returns to Reston's CenterStage with its own, very original comic work, "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)."

"Reston is the RSC's home away from home. We've performed in Reston every year since 1987," said the RSC troupe of actors. "Then in 2014 Reston CenterStage produced the Reduced Shakespeare Company 'Extravaganza' in which we performed seven different RSC shows over two weeks. As a result of all this, we have a strong relationship with Reston audiences and many deep friendships with the staff of Reston CenterStage."

Written and directed by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor, "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)" is blended together bits of The Bard's works performed by three actors.

The conceit of the production is that "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)" was "discovered" in a treasure-filled parking lot in Leicester, England, next to a pile of bones that didn't look particularly important. There it was, an ancient appearing manuscript supposedly written by the than 17-year-old William Shakespeare. It was his first work; long

### Where and When

Reduced Shakespeare Company presents "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)" at Reston Community Center, CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods Center, Reston. Performances, Friday, April 21, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 22, at 8 p.m. Tickets: Reston \$25/\$50 non-Reston. Call: 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com. Note: Contains some occasional bawdy language and mild innuendo. RSC gives its show a PG rating.

thought lost.

The comic work lifts off as the tale of an unexpected feud between two of Shakespeare's most precious, jester-like characters, the sprite Puck from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and Ariel the spirit in "The Tempest." The dispute between Ariel and Puck leads to a wit-filled rivalry with plenty of bedlam. Many characters from other Shakespearean plays will appear and take sides. The dozens of characters are all portrayed by just three actors.

Why did the "Long Lost First Play" need to be "abridged"? In good fun, the RSC troupe indicated that the play was originally 100 hours, but was reduced in size for a 90 minute performance.

CenterStage audience can expect the RSC to break theatrical boundaries to build a personal relationship between performers and audience. At times anything can happen as the actors "talk" directly to the audience and ad lib.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company actors plan to be in the Reston CenterStage lobby after the performance to meet-and-greet the audience. The troupe put it this way; "one of the most satisfying things that happens is when folks tell us that they've had a difficult time lately and that our show has helped them feel better. Laughter is healing."



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Lisa Connors, a spokesperson for the county, left, interviewed Cornerstones CEO Kerrie Wilson, right, on Facebook Live on Wednesday, April 5, outside the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston.



Lisa Connors interviewed OPEH Director Dean Klein on Facebook Live on Wednesday, April 5, outside the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston.

## Report: Homeless Population Down 47 Percent

**Budget woes threaten progress as the number of homeless people drops below 1,000 for the first time in Fairfax County.**

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he number of homeless people on the streets of Fairfax County reached a record low this year.

The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness counted 964 homeless people in the Fairfax County and Falls Church area on the night of Jan. 25 during its 2017 Homeless Point In Time Count. It is the first time that fewer than 1,000 people were reported homeless during the nine years the county has been collecting the data for the report.

The count covers people who are literally homeless – those who are in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, or unsheltered and living on the street or in vehicles. Of those counted this year, 474 were people in families, including 286 children, and 490 people were single individuals, including 155 older adults ages 55 and over.

The first count in 2008 reported 1,835 homeless people, which means the homeless population during the count has decreased by 47 percent.

The results were announced on Wednesday, April 5, outside the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston by OPEH Director Dean Klein and Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones, a nonprofit organization that serves people in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, childcare and other human services.

**THE PROGRESS** in reducing homelessness in the county was attributed to helping those in need find affordable housing in the area.

“The cost of living here puts housing out of reach for so many people,” Wilson said. “That is essentially the real problem we have here.”

The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and its partner organizations take a “housing first” approach to helping those in need. This method first offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Then, supportive services and connections to community-based resources are provided in order to keep people in their housing and avoid returning to homelessness.

“The goal of reducing homelessness has two dispositions,” said a man who was staying at the Embry Rucker Shelter. He requested to remain anonymous. “If you’re a homeowner and don’t like homeless people in your midst, that’s one end of the spectrum,” he said. “The other is a nurturing and caring disposition where people don’t want the homeless to suffer. We’re not all working towards the same goal.”

This philosophy of helping the homeless become self-sufficient is embraced at the Embry Rucker Shelter, which is operated by Cornerstones.

### 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.*

**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](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

“Nobody should be raised in a homeless shelter,” Wilson said.

But her organization would rather keep clients in the shelter longer until they can find a housing arrangement that works in order to keep them from slipping back into homelessness.

Her organization, Cornerstones, often relies on shared housing where it matches homeless individuals to be roommates and sets them up with landlords who offer affordable housing arrangements.

**“The cost of living here puts housing out of reach for so many people.”**

— Kerrie Wilson, Cornerstones

These opportunities are few and far in between and will become more challenging in the years to come for its homeless individuals.

This is because the county has relied on housing resources for its homeless single population in the past from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to Klein. But this resource is at risk.

The Trump administration plans to significantly reduce HUD’s funding from \$46.9 billion in 2017 to \$40.7 billion in 2018, a 13.2 percent cut, according to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

“We need more housing,” Klein said. “We recognize that federal housing reductions are looming. We are very concerned about what that may mean and the impact that could have on the progress that we’ve made in the community.”

Klein’s office will also take a hit locally.

The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness is set to lose \$200,000 in funding next year in order to balance the county’s fiscal year 2018 budget.

**THE DECREASE** in OPEH’s advertised fiscal year 2018 budget will prevent it from using motels as a last resort housing options for families with children who are experiencing homelessness when shelters are full or when individuals have medical needs that make a shelter facility inappropriate, according to the county’s advertised budget plan.

“It would really eliminate some of the flexibility needed for our system and providers,” Klein said. “Often times, our shelters are full. With that, we need other flexibility to make sure people and families aren’t living on the streets.”

Still, Klein remains hopeful despite the challenges ahead.

“We saw a significant decrease in the number of homeless families ... we see that our single population continues to be a huge challenge to not only help them to secure employment but also to help them to get housing,” Klein says.

**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](http://ShalomDC.org).

**Hope Fellowship Church** will temporarily be meeting at Hyatt Place, 21481 Ridgetop 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](http://www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org).

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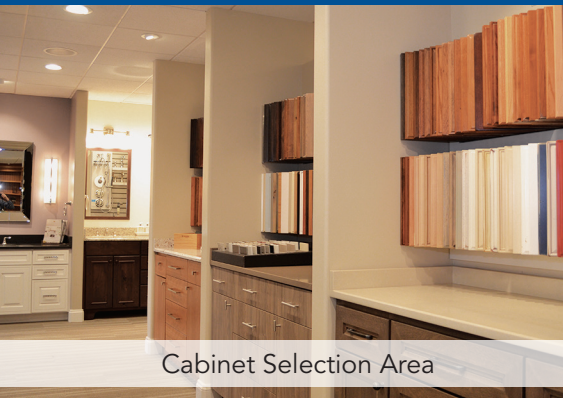
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We will be providing 3 free educational seminars throughout the day. Our Design Consultants will give you tips and guidelines about remodeling.



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