

Inside

PET CONNECTION

In his prime, Fred of Great Falls loved to travel, traversing the United States twice before he was 7. Fred has enjoyed the best of what this country has to offer; national parks, historical sites, kitsch destinations, food-filled city streets and the company of a wide range of citizens. Here he is in front of the world's largest beagles at the Dog Bark Park Inn in Cottonwood, Idaho.

Meet the Best Friends

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Court Date Set in Murder of Reston Teen

Nabra Hassanen was killed after attending an overnight event during Ramadan.

By FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

PHOTO COURTESY
OF KHADIJAH
ABDULLAH-LARDAS

Nabra Hassanen, 17, of Reston was a sophomore at South Lakes High School.



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Safeia Ali, 13, of Reston wipes away tears as a prayer is recited from the Quran during a vigil for Nabra Hassanen at Lake Anne Plaza on Wednesday, June 21.

A preliminary hearing for the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney's prosecution of murder suspect Darwin Martinez Torres, 22, will be on Friday, Oct. 13, in Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Judge Kimberly Daniel will preside over the hearing for the court, which has jurisdiction over juvenile matters, including offenses committed by adults against juveniles under the age of 18, according to Rae Ann Stein, who works for the Fairfax County Court Services Administration in records management. Torres was charged with killing 17-year-old Nabra Hassanen of Reston in June for what the Fairfax County Police Department called a deadly case of road rage, according to police.

HASSANEN, A SOPHOMORE at South Lakes High School, was reported missing on Sunday, June

18, around 4 a.m. near Dranesville and Woodson roads in Herndon within Fairfax County.

She and a group of as many as 15 teenagers were walking and riding bikes on Dranesville Road after attending an overnight event for Ramadan at a mosque in Sterling, which is in Loudoun County. The teenagers were traveling from the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, known as the ADAMS Center, to a restaurant, according to police. As the teenagers were returning to the mosque from the restaurant, some were on the sidewalk while others were on the road, according to police.

Detectives believe Torres came upon the group in a car when a teenaged boy on a bike in the group began arguing with the

driver. Torres then drove his car onto the curb as the group scattered. Witnesses say Torres caught up with the group in a nearby parking lot and got out of his car armed with a baseball bat. He then caught up to Hassanen, whom police believe was on foot, and assaulted her with the bat, according to police.

After Torres's initial assault, he took Hassanen in his car to a second location nearby in Loudoun County where another assault took place, according to police.

Torres, who is a citizen of El Salvador and was living in Sterling without legal permission, had a detainer request lodged against him by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, an arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, according to Carissa Cutrell, a spokesperson for the agency.

ICE lodges detainers on people living in the country without legal permission who have been arrested on local criminal charges when the agency has probable

cause to deport them, according to Cutrell.

Torres had no prior encounters with ICE, according to Cutrell.

DESPITE THE FEDERAL agency's desire to deport Torres, the FCPD announced that it will continue to lead the murder investigation. Previously, the department was unsure whether it or the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office would try the criminal case because assaults were committed against Hassanen in both Fairfax and Loudoun counties, according to police. Homicide detectives investigating the murder looked into whether Torres is a gang member or affiliated with gangs, but found no credible information to support any connection, according to police. Hassanen was laid to rest as a martyr of her Muslim community on Wednesday, June 21, the same day the community flocked to Lake Anne Plaza in Reston for her vigil. Torres remains at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center in Fairfax without bail, according to police.

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County Pursuing Environmental Goals

Bulova hosts County Environmental Showcase.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Part exhibition, part symposium, and part networking opportunity — there was something for everyone even vaguely interested in environmental issues at the Environmental Showcase, hosted by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova on Saturday, July 22 at the county's Government Center.

The Fairfax County Environmental Vision was first adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2004, when U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was the board's chair. Working with then-Supervisor Bulova and others like Supervisor Penny Gross (Mason District), an environmental advisory committee was established to help develop and direct the region's environmental agenda.

The board recently updated the Vision document, so the event provided the community with some insight into the revisions. It also acknowledged the achievements of local government departments and non-profit organizations and civic groups, while recommitting to the task of protecting the local environment and developing models of sustainability as the county continues to grow.

There were kudos enough to go around.

Bulova noted Fairfax County reduced its per capita emissions by 10 percent from 2005 to 2012 and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from public buildings by 21 percent from 2006 to 2015 — at the same time that county properties have grown in square footage.

More than 60 percent of the county's Fairfax Connector buses are "mini-hybrids" which utilize engine cooling systems to reduce emissions and save on fuel bills.

BOTH BULOVA AND CONNOLLY noted the county's goal to increase tree cover in Fairfax County by 45 percent by 2037 has already been met — and exceeded. In addition, according to the Park Authority, said Connolly, the goal of preserving 10 percent of all land in the county is well within reach. "9.26 percent there," said Connolly. "Only 1,864 acres more to go."

Connolly also praised the board for "once again taking a leadership role" and adopting a resolution to sign on to the National Climate Action Agenda to uphold the standards agreed upon by 195 nations at the Paris Climate Summit. "President Trump has withdrawn us from the agreement," said Connolly. "Congratulations. We've joined the ranks of Nicaragua and Syria, the only two other countries who refused to sign ... and Nicaragua only declined because they thought it didn't go far enough."

Much of Connolly's remarks centered on the redevelopment of Tysons Corner.

"Consider the revolutionary provisions



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova was the host of the Environmental Showcase at the Government Center: "We've come along way since the adoption of the first Environmental Vision, but there's always work to be done."

developed by the citizens Tysons Task Force. America's Next Great City is being built in a transit-oriented manner ... ensuring for the first time in Fairfax County that transit, biking and walking will be the safest, most convenient modes of transportation."

Connolly listed a number of additional achievements that had been made, and pointed out that all had been accomplished in partnership with the business community. He also paid tribute to the "unsung heroes in much of our environmental progress," referring to the hundreds of individuals and civic groups who have not only advocated in support of environmental protection, but also put in the hours and added their expertise for the good of the whole community, today and for the future.

A diverse panel of government employees and business leaders made presentations highlighting the partnership that Connolly spoke of. Kambiz Agazi, who Bulova introduced as the "Environmental Orchestra Conductor," is the county's environmental coordinator. Agazi mentioned some of the changes in "Vision 2.0" and also informed the audience that a new "environmental inventory" measuring environmental impact and improvements would be soon forthcoming.

Also present from Fairfax County government were James Hart, planning commissioner, and Susan Hafeli, senior utility analyst.

Tom Fleury, executive vice president of Bowman Consulting; Dr. Dann Sklarew, Ph.D. from George Mason University; and Steve Smith, principal with Cooper Carry architects, all spoke of innovations within their various disciplines that were aimed at marrying profitability with efficiency and environmental stewardship.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was a guest speaker at the event. Connolly was the board chair when the first Environmental Vision for Fairfax County was developed and adopted.

Kaspowicz of Vienna ("just over the Reston line") who was impressed by the quantity of information being gathered and the work planned to restore and protect those resources.

Patrick Keenan, hotel operations project manager with Maryland-based B. F. Saul Company, Hospitality Group, stopped by to visit with Raea Jean Leinster, self-described "Chief Yuck Officer," of Yuck Old Paint recycling company. B. F. Saul is a client of Yuck. "Everybody can do their part," said Keenan.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION made its presence felt at the Showcase, as well. Members of ESLI — Eco-Schools Leadership Initiative — were also on hand. Sophia Applegate, a rising senior at Oakton High School, joined Madison High School rising junior Kathryn Hammond and VCU freshman Archana Nakkara of Vienna to talk



From left: Reston Association CEO Cate Fulkerson, Vienna resident Joan Kaspowicz, Sara Fulkerson and Restonian Doug Britt gather in front of the association's booth. Britt and his nine-person volunteer team are getting ready to present the first comprehensive inventory of the environment and natural resources of Reston to the association's board on July 27.

Smith had the assembly particularly interested in the description of his company's pilot project, re-designing a test floor in a hotel to align with "wellness building concepts." "In these rooms, even the shower is thinking about your health" with a Vitamin C infused water flow, he said. Before and after the speakers' presentations and questions for the panel, an estimated crowd of about 200 visited booths set up in the conference center lobby and in the main forum.

In the week ahead Reston Association will be reviewing its first major "RASER" — Reston Association State of the Environment Report. The work for the 190-page document was conducted over the last year by Doug Britt and a nine-person volunteer army who donated more than 1,000 hours to the task of unbundling information from a variety of sources and physically viewing, monitoring, testing and observing the natural environment in the area. The Reston booth drew quite a crowd, including Joan

about the program that helps other youths learn about environmental issues and start their own environmental initiatives. The three met at an ESLI Conference, and their mutual interest in environmental protection has brought them together to help spread the word. "We love to do the programs especially in the middle schools and even younger. It's great to get kids started early, knowing how important it is to protect the Earth we live on and the community we live in," said Applegate.

There was no disagreement among those gathered. The work needed to be done on environmental issues and on combining the goals of growth and sustainability will probably never be done. "Things keep changing. People, technologies, the world around us, and we need to keep looking ahead to be ready," said Bulova.

The Fairfax County Environmental Vision can be reviewed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/sustainability/.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

OPINION

Help End Domestic Violence

There were 1,483 calls to the domestic violence hotline in 2016, averaging 124 calls per month.

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

Strong families are held together by love, support, and commitment. They are the very foundation of a strong society. If the core of the family is replaced by violence, then all of society is weakened.

Domestic violence affects one in four Fairfax families and causes nearly 1,600 arrests in Fairfax every year. It is almost guaranteed that anyone reading this knows a victim of domestic violence, even if they are unaware of it. These statistics alone paint a dire picture. However, there is a way you can make a positive difference.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Fairfax County's Domestic Violence Prevention Council, which I chair, rolled out the "Make the Call" campaign earlier this year. Its purpose is to encourage victims and witnesses of domestic violence to call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273. This number is completely safe and confidential. The hotline is staffed by experts always ready to offer information, counsel, and resources to victims and concerned citizens. Callers can receive vital information on where



to find shelter, legal resources, financial aid, and even a safe haven for their animals. Anyone can call to learn about the signs of domestic violence and even confirm possible incidents.

The hotline is proving to be highly effective and even lifesaving. The Fairfax County Office for Women received 1,483 hotline calls with an average of 124 calls per month in 2016. At least 98 percent of those who called for services said the hotline better prepared them to make a safety plan. This call can mean the difference between life and death for those escaping abuse.

Domestic violence is sometimes difficult to identify for bystanders, as well as victims. Abusers will often convince their victims that

they deserve the abuse, which shames victims into hiding the problem instead of speaking out. Many abusers threaten their victims with harsher, deadlier punishments if they look for help. These and other factors make domestic violence more difficult to recognize without the help of a seasoned professional. This is why we need more people to make the call when they have that gut feeling that something is amiss.

For bystanders, it could be a black eye, a passing reference, or even a loud argument overheard next door. You do not have to be sure. If you think domestic violence maybe happening, make the call and let professionals help.

For victims, the hotline is available whenever you need it. If you feel threatened, alone, or unsafe in your own home, please make the call. You do not have to go through this difficult time alone. The staff at the hotline is here for you at any hour of the day and will do everything they can to help secure you and your family's safety.

Again, the number is 703-360-7273. Please, make the call, it could save a life.

Victims and witnesses of domestic violence can call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Catastrophic Events' Can Happen to Anyone

To the Editor:

I am a senior citizen and I have read about the situation with health care or lack of in this country. Your article mentioned many factors that the general public is ignorant of. I personally believe that a country's strength and greatness is reflected in how they treat the least of their people.

We have failed on an epic level as a people. No person wants to be on welfare, Medicaid, public assistance or food stamps. The prevailing ignorant opinion by the vastly uninformed public is that it is an easy ride and that the individuals on welfare want to live off the state.

The truth of the matter is that "catastrophic events" can happen to anyone and it only takes the loss of employment and devastating medical bills to suddenly be forced to be on state assistance. It is a true nightmare. It is a degrading humiliating process and I honestly cannot think of anyone who truly wanted to be on Medicaid or welfare. It puts a person in a negative life-altering position where the

judgment by people is harsh and unsympathetic. People make assumptions that those on assistance are no good lazy bums getting a "free ride."

The truth is that President Johnson and his "great society" brought about the demise of social security. He opened the doors to the looting of the program for non-related financial projects.

I am an independent voter. I am a senior. I used to be an employee of United Airlines. I lost all my benefits and do not have any retirement. I also was a part time teacher. I have no teacher's pension. I have no savings and no retirement to fall back on and am living on S.S.I. of \$735 a month and that is my sole income. It is impossible to live on this. I have no money by the middle of the month.

I injured myself in a freak accident at Dulles airport. I lost my job. it was a devastating loss for me. I could not find any work. I was forced out of desperation to apply for Medicaid. I do not like Medicaid because the types of cli-

ents I have to associate with and choice of doctors is very limited.

Having grown up in a family where my mother was a Democrat and my father a Republican I have

had two viewpoints. My maternal grandfather was with the Burlington Northern Railroad 30-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



"Victor the Vulture is our new office pet. While he's not very cuddly, we enjoy his visits to our office balcony, which he uses to 'scope' out the area. From time to time we get to watch him dive bomb from the fifth floor of the Government Center. Although we are unsure of his success rate. Victor is bigger than most cats and I wouldn't want him near mine!"

— BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA

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COMMENTARY

Keeping Our Heads Above Water

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



Any report by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) is met with skepticism in some quarters because these were the same people whose findings found that climate is changing and that human behavior is one of the causes. The so-called "climate change deniers" continue to insist, regardless of the scientific evidence to the contrary, that humans are not to blame if there is any change in the climate. We can deny the latest report of the UCS, "When Rising Seas Hit Home," at our own peril especially in Virginia (www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/global-warming-impacts/when-rising-seas-hit-home-chronic-inundation-from-sea-level-rise#.WXF1qoTytdg).

The scientists found that "important consequences of climate change are more subtle and slower moving than disasters. One such consequence is sea level rise. Unlike the catastrophic flooding that can accompany hurricanes, sea level rise impacts can take time to manifest. The final result, late this century and beyond, may be neighborhoods underwater."

In a state like Virginia with a major region named "Tidewater" the impact can be especially great. UCS has identified three Virginia communities that will face chronic inundation by 2035 and 21 more by 2100. In the highest level scenario considered by the scientists, 38 communities would be exposed to chronic inundation by the end of the century. Visit the website to see a list of communities that will be hardest hit. Of little surprise is the finding that in the highest scenario by 2080 Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Hampton and the Naval Air Sta-

tion would have up to a quarter of their land chronically flooded.

These findings should come as no surprise to Virginians. In 2015 the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) completed a study on this issue at the request of the General Assembly. Its report, "Recurrent Flooding Study for Tidewater Virginia," found that "recurrent flooding already impacts all localities in Virginia's coastal zone and is predicted to worsen over reasonable planning horizons of 20 to 50 years due to sea level rise, land subsidence, and other factors." The scientists wisely did not use the term "climate change" that continues to be politically charged among some of Virginia's political leaders.

Earlier this month the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded a grant to VIMS that along with its match will total \$1.25 million to support "nature-based infrastructure" to help coastal Virginia counter and recover from flood events. Nature-based infrastructure includes tidal wetlands and living shorelines that can help to blunt and even absorb the effects of rising seas and recurrent flooding.

These efforts are important, but the UCS found even bolder policy changes and enhanced coordination among all levels of government must happen to protect our coastal areas.

UCS concluded its report, "And even as the Trump administration seeks to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, we must work at state and local levels and with other nations to cut global warming emissions aggressively in order to help slow the pace of sea level rise." Maybe then we can keep our heads above water!

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Taylor Wreath, of Reston, was awarded the 9th Grade Honors English Top Researcher Outstanding Performance Certificate for the 2016-17 school year at Randolph-Macon Academy. Taylor was a freshman at the Academy. Taylor is the daughter of Doug and Heather Wreath of Vienna.

Alexander Rudison, a 2016 South Lakes High School graduate, graduated from the Naval Academy Preparatory School after completing a 10-month curriculum. Alex reported to the United States Naval Academy June 27, 2017. He joins approximately 1,250 young men and women from throughout the country and internationally as they were sworn on June 29, 2017.

Paige L. Truitt, of Reston, has been awarded academic honors at Clemson University (Clemson, S.C.) for the spring 2017 semester. Truitt is majoring in marketing.



Alexander Rudison

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PET CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Joe Caso, 62, director of presales, Patti Aston, satellite operator, and her daughter Hunter, 8, third grader attempt to pose for a picture with their dogs Dixie and Barry Allan. They are Herndon residents. Barry, the greyhound is 5 years old and is named after the Flash from Marvel's Justice League. Barry is a retired racer. Dixie is also 5 years old and is a rescued blue nosed Pitbull. "They are companions, they love me and they don't talk back," said Patti Aston.



Leashed and ready to start the morning: Bottom — Fergie 10 1/2 years old (mini poodle); middle — a new addition puppy Mimi, 5 months old, (malipoo - maltese and poodle mix); top — Raven, 13 years old (toy poodle).

Paw-trolling the Sidewalks of Herndon



Ashley Morse of Herndon surrounded by her furry kids: Fergie, Mimi, and Raven. Ashley graduated from Herndon High School (2011), University of Virginia (2015) and currently is employed by Johns Hopkins APL as an engineer. Fergie and Raven are getting use to the new addition to the family, Mimi. Never a dull moment!

Meet the Best Friends of Herndon

Herndon resident Brian Gagne, 55, fisherman, poses for a picture with his dog Papa. "He's a 4-year-old black lab," he said. "He's my best friend." He was getting some exercise with papa at Herndon dog park. "They have running water and strict rules about picking up after your dog. It's a great place to bring them," said Gagne.



Herndon resident Brian Timmer, 46, was at the Herndon dog park with his black lab Ranger and Chip, white with spots. "When I bring them in Cabela's with me, Chip likes to socialize with people and Ranger likes to do his own thing. I love them both but they have different personalities," said Timmer. "They are great companions. Chip is well trained and Ranger is mediocre on the training but has more personality," he said.



Remembering Sierra

Our lovable "Sierra" passed away on July 5 this year after giving us 16 years of fun. She was loved in our Franklin Farm neighborhood of Herndon. She won everyone over with her retrieving, her always-wagging tail, and her expressions. We were lucky to have her. She was a mix with a good amount of Jack Russell in her, also border collie and who knows what else?

— MARY ANN, GARY, ERIC AND GREG AMSTUTZ

"Sierra in the snow."



Holly and her “dad” George, her “mom” Margie, holding HJ’s “niece,” Caroline, and HJ’s “sister” Lisa, holding HJ’s “nephew” Ben. Taken at the annual Briggs alumni reunion.

Celebrating Holly

The pictures I am submitting are to celebrate our neighbor and pack mate for the past 14 years — Holly Jo Dellagiarino. HJ has been a friend to all five of my “kids.” While she has slowed down a bit, she still comes out to walk with us in different parts of Reston at least once a week as well as makes a weekly trip to the Burger King for an ice cream. She now has her own “Holly trolley” for those times when her legs give out. HJ and my five “kids” were all adopted from the Briggs Animal Adoption Center in Charles Town, W.Va.

— CINDY MORROW, RESTON



HJ with Margie and me and my “kids,” Blu and Dixie at Blandy Farm.



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Tank and Tinkerbell

Tank and Tinkerbell

Tank (grey male) and his sister Tinkerbell (brown brindle) are Pit Bulls. Pits had received a bad reputation which is decidedly undeserved. I “rescued” these two from Friends of Homeless Animals. They had been surrendered and the hope was that they could stay together. They had not been trained - they are now. They are the sweetest animals and are never more than about two feet away from one another. They are great cuddlers and make sure that I don’t stay on my computer too late in the evenings. They come into my office and nudge me until I head to bed. Pits were know as the “Nanny Dogs.” Betty Boop’s dog was a Pit as was the dog in “Spanky and our Gang.” I considered myself lucky to have these two lovers in my home.

— MOLLY ALLEN, RESTON

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That's how it's done: BridgeStreet CEO Sean Worker gets a few tips from real Jimmy's Old Town Tavern bartender Justin Fedorchak as Worker starts his "shift" as a "celebrity" bartender to help raise funds for non-profit FISH.

Raise a Glass and Raise Some Funds for FISH

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

It was billed as "Celebrity Bartenders" manning the taps at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in Herndon. The idea was to bring in the crowds and raise some bucks when the celebrities' followers came in and added raffle tickets to their bar and food tabs, all to benefit non-profit Herndon-Reston Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help – FISH.

The two organizers probably stretched the truth a bit on the moniker "celebrity," although they are no doubt well-known within their respective industries.

Tim Kelly is Vice President of Reston-based Macedon Technologies. Sean Worker is the CEO of BridgeStreet Global Hospitality, a leader in serviced apartments and homes for business, also headquartered in Reston. The two have worked as business project partners before, and as partners in support of FISH.

Their most recent "FISHing expedition" was sponsoring the final Bradley Farm Haunted Halloween House last October which pulled in enormous crowds and significant financial donations for FISH. "We've been looking for other activities and events to help replace those lost dollars for FISH," said Kelly, "so here we are tonight."

KELLY AND WORKER joined veteran bartenders Roy Crawford, Justin Fedorchak and occasionally tavern proprietor Jimmy Cirrito behind the bar. Both looked a little shaky at the start of their "shift," but helpful Jimmy's staff and good-natured and patient bar patrons saw them quickly getting into the swing of things.

While the two semi-celebrities served, members of FISH worked the crowd with their raffle-tickets and donation buckets.

FISH Executive Director Lisa Groves did guard duty at the raffle table and explained the work of their organization as dozens of Jimmy's customers wandered up to see what was going on.

FISH is a volunteer, non-profit whose mission is to help local residents in short-term crises. Since 1969 they have helped thousands with rent, utilities, medical items and other short-term needs. They operate an Assistance Phone Line at 571-267-2980 and run the Bargain Loft thrift shop in Herndon. The FISH folks also aid the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program at the Herndon's Farmer's Market and provide hundreds of holiday food and gift baskets to families in need.

"We are delighted to be associated with FISH" said Worker. "They fill a critical gap need in the community. The work they do actually helps prevent homelessness. That's something worth supporting."

The two corporate sponsors worked tirelessly at their duties, but seemed to enjoy the job – so much so, that when a real celebrity bartender arrived to start her shift, they were reluctant to be replaced.

Who was the second shift celebrity? None other than Virginia State Delegate and Herndon resident Jennifer Boysko (D-86). A familiar face around town, Boysko was greeted by many of the Jimmy's regulars.

"I don't have a clue what I am doing," admitted Boysko with a laugh, "but I am willing to give it a try for FISH. They are such a force for good in our community."

BEFORE "LAST CALL," quite a few raffle prizes were won and more than \$3,000 was added to the funds needed to help FISH continue their good works for so many Herndon-Reston neighbors in need.

Find out more about FISH. Get help or give it. Visit www.herndonrestonfish.org.



Tim Kelly, VP of Reston-based Macedon Technologies, is ready to fly solo as a celebrity bartender. Kelly and Sean Worker of BridgeStreet Global Hospitality teamed up with Jimmy's proprietor Jimmy Cirrito to organize the fundraiser.



A real celebrity at the Celebrity Bartending event: Herndon resident and Delegate for Virginia's 86th district Jennifer Boysko volunteered to take a shift for the worthy cause.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Lisa Groves, Executive Director of Herndon-Reston Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help (FISH), kept the raffle ticket sales under control, and spoke to Jimmy's patrons about FISH's work in the community. "We are always touched by this kind of support and assistance."

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Jazz in the City Exhibit. Various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Kristine Keller and Robert Gilbert paint with an interest in New York. Call 703-956-9560 or visit artspaceherndon.com.

Cardboard Boat Regatta.

Registration now open for race on Aug. 12, 2-6 p.m. at Lake Anna, Reston. Participating teams of all ages will construct and decorate their own life-size cardboard boats. For more information or to register a team, visit www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard. Team sponsorships begin at \$100 for adults and families or \$40 for students (ages 10-18 years of age). Contact Elizabeth Didiano at lacbregatta@gmail.com or 703-709-7700.

NextStop Theatre. Various times through Aug. 20 at 269 Sunset Park Drive (Inside the Sunset Business Park on Spring Street), Herndon. "Rodgers & Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing" \$17.50-\$55. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

Free Concerts. Through Aug. 26, 7:30-10 p.m. every Saturday night in the pavilion at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running.

Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., 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.

"A Bird in the Hand" through spring 2017 Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. See and explore Patrick Dougherty's monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. Presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org

Teen and Adult Art Classes

ArtSpace Herndon Every Monday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. 750 Center St., Herndon. Drawing and Mixed Media with Melanie Stanley - During Fall and Winter of 2016. Cost: \$45/class. The class will use a variety of techniques for drawing, painting, mark making, and collage using fine arts tools and materials. Students will be taken down a creative path to learn to use drawing tools and brushes more effectively. Register by emailing Melanie, and she will send you the supply list and payment options/information: ridingfree2@gmail.com. 703-956-9560. www.artspaceherndon.com.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

The Grandsons Jr. (Children Songs). 10-11 a.m. at the Visitor Center Pavilion, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Wednesday Morning Children's Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Meet Me at the Movies. 10 a.m. at Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Reston Association presents "Gifted." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information at Ashleigh@reston.org, 703-435-6530, or reston.org.

Dog Days of Summer. 4-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion as it is transformed weekly into an off-leash play area. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet friendly giveaways, and more. Every Wednesday through Sept. 27. Free.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT MAXWELL

Herndon High School Summer Grand 2017 will present Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Friday, July 28- Sunday July 30 with a special Chocolate Factory Tour on Sunday, July 30. For more information visit www.herndondrama.org.

Willy Wonka at Herndon High School

Join the Summer Grand cast and crew as they present Willy Wonka, a musical that will unlock the gates of the audience members' imagination and, perhaps, teach a lesson or two. Appropriate for all ages, this celebrated classic offers an optional "chocolate factory" tour before Sunday's performance. Interested families with children ages 3-12 should contact Renee Maxwell, renmax@gmail.com, as tour space is limited.

Show Times: Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 30 at 2 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon (Enter the school through door #6 in back.)

Tickets: \$12 at www.herndondrama.org.

Chocolate Factory Tour: \$3 + \$12 show ticket. One adult per family may accompany children on tour at no charge.

Visit restontowncenter.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 27

Farmer's Market. 8-12:30 p.m. on Lynn St. in downtown Herndon. Fresh produce and baked goods, with live entertainment on the Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. through Aug. 31. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

ZoosDay. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Animal and miniature animal petting zoo with hands-on, educational experiences. Kid-friendly giveaways plus activities like Legos and Play-Doh. Free. Rain or shine. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Summer Movie Series. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Hindi musical about a musician who falls for an unhappy woman who is waiting for her absent love to return. In Hindi, with English subtitles. Free. Call 703-689-2700.

Jazz History Lecture. 6-7 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103. Michael J. West is a jazz journalist that delivers a lecture followed by open conversation. Free. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

Art Crawl. 6-9 p.m. in downtown Herndon, in and around ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Musicians, live art demonstrations will be featured at the Art Crawl every Thursday evening. Call 703-956-9560.

The Spiritual Rez (Reggae/Funk). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Kidwell Farm, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon.

Thursday Evening Concert Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/JULY 28

Live Music at Tavern64. 6-10 p.m. at Tavern64, 1800 Presidents St., Reston Town Center. Live music every Friday night. Call 703-925-8250 or visit tavern64.com.

Traveling Players Ensemble. 8-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery St. The Comedy of Errors is a performance of Shakespeare's farce. Free. Rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair for seating. Visit travelingplayers.org.

JULY 28-30

Willy Wonka. Various times at Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St. Summer Grand cast presents play and tour of the chocolate factory. \$12, tour is \$3. Visit www.herndondrama.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Family Game Days. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. Different games each Saturday from corn hole to sack races. Free. Email parksandrec@herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300.

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. A show filled with audience participation and humor. Visit restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

Dollars and Sense Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library,

11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Topic will be "Things a Little Bird Told Me" by Biz Stone. Free. Call 703-689-2700.

Love Canon Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Bluegrass version of hits from the '80s. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

Hillbilly Gypsies Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Arrowbrook Centre Park, Field Point Road, Herndon. Bluegrass music. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

Exercise with Athleta. 11 a.m.-noon at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. Bollywood with Fitness Equation of Ashburn, part of Athleta's free fitness sessions with a variety of fitness instructors every Sunday morning. Call 703-668-0256 or visit stores.athleta.net/store-4866/.

Sunday Art in the Park. 3-5 p.m. in the Park Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market St. See local art and talk to artists. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

Film Screening. 6 p.m. in Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. Martin Scorsese's newest film about a 17th century Portuguese Jesuit priest. Email kkinsolv@yahoo.com or tlallen1@fcps.edu.

THURSDAY/AUG. 3

Farmer's Market. 8-12:30 p.m. on Lynn St. in downtown Herndon.

Fresh produce and baked goods, with live entertainment on the Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. through Aug. 31. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

Art Crawl. 6-9 p.m. in downtown Herndon, in and around ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Musicians, live art demonstrations will be featured at the Art Crawl every Thursday evening. Call 703-956-9560.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

Magic of John Dodge. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St. Dodge does disappearing handkerchiefs, balloon animals and more. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

Comfort Cuisine. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road. This class will teach participants how to prepare tasty, healthy and satisfying meals. Call 703-476-4500.

THURSDAY/AUG. 10

Art Crawl. 6-9 p.m. in downtown Herndon, in and around ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Musicians, live art demonstrations will be featured at the Art Crawl every Thursday evening. Call 703-956-9560.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Kids Wet and Wild Day. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. Water balloon relays and squirt gun fights. Free. Email parksandrec@herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300.

Cardboard Boat Regatta. 2-6 p.m. at Lake Anne, Reston. Participating teams of all ages will construct and decorate their own life-size cardboard boats. For questions or more information on getting involved, contact Elizabeth Didiano at lacbregatta@gmail.com or 703-709-7700.

Reston Concerts on the Town.

7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. The weekly summer concert series presents big band jazz with the Navy Band Commodores. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and hear live outdoor music at the Pavilion. Free. Rain or shine. Presented by Reston Town Center, Boston Properties, and Reston Town Center Association. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. Visit restontowncenter.com/concerts.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

Bird Watching. 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Lake Newport, 1575 Brown's Chapel Road, Reston. Sponsored by The Bird Feeder of Reston and the Reston Association. Call 703-437-3335.

Meet the Reston Author. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Reston: A Revolutionary Idea" – Author and biographer Kristina Alcorn will discuss the history of Reston and sign and sell her book, "In His Own Words: Stories from the Extraordinary Life of Reston's Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr. Free. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. 703-385-8414.

TUESDAY/AUG. 15

Baby and Me Yoga. 10-11 a.m. in the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road. Baby and Me Yoga class is open to women in all stages of postpartum, as well as fathers, relatives and caregivers. Classes are for babies 4 weeks old to crawling. Call 703-476-4500.

Seeing the World Through NuEyes

Reston 10-year-old boy receives device enabling him to see.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Felix Reges, 10, of Reston has so many good things in his life: Loving adoptive parents and four siblings, an unparalleled curiosity for all things IT, a joy of reading, and now NuEyes, a head-worn device for the visually impaired featuring Osterhout Design Group (ODG) Smartglasses that helps him see.

Felix has low vision. He is one of the 246 million visually impaired individuals worldwide, a number estimated by the World Health Organization. Felix's vision cannot be restored or corrected with regular eyeglasses.

Glenn and Ina Reges are Felix's parents. Recently the Reges family met with Kristi Linz Moore, a representative of the iWearTec, the local distributor of NuEyes. Moore said NuEyes created proprietary software for the ODG Smartglasses to benefit those with low vision.

She was there with the Reges family that day to review with Felix how to use the smart glasses and set up a monitor linked to the

glasses via Bluetooth which would allow everyone to see what Felix saw through the glasses. While Moore set things up and worked with Felix, Glenn and Ina Reges shared a bit about their son, how Felix came into their lives and the challenges he faced.

Glenn Reges said Felix was abandoned five days after being born in southern China. He was placed in an orphanage where the caretakers were told not to interact with him unless necessary. Fifteen months later, Glenn and Ina Reges traveled to China hoping to adopt the baby boy.

"When they handed Felix to us, we immediately knew something wasn't right.... We had 24 hours to decide if we wanted to keep him or not," Glenn Reges recalled. "We kept him."

Later, Felix was diagnosed with a condition known as ocular albinism, in which the pigmentation of the iris and retina, essential for normal vision, is reduced and leads to low vision and blindness. "I can sit beside Felix, and he cannot see me," said Glenn Reges.

"We leave nothing on the floor



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Felix Reges, 10 of Reston has a visual impairment. Regular eyeglasses do not correct or restore his vision, but with the magnification and freedom capacity of his NuEyes visual prosthetics, he can see to read and navigate at home and in school.

for fear he will trip," added Ina Reges.

FELIX WAS ALSO DIAGNOSED with Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome (HPS), a rare genetic metabolic disorder that causes albinism and platelet dysfunction with prolonged bleeding. Adding one more diagnosis to the list, Felix was found to be autistic, which when added to his vision impairment Glenn Reges said, "Creates additional anxiety for him. Felix does not have a sense of his environment, what is around him."

Glenn Reges recalled how he recently searched the internet trying to find something to help their son see, to level the educational playing field. "I considered braille," he said stopping to watch Felix as he tried out different controls on the smart glasses with Moore. Continuing, Glenn Reges told how it was during one of his many internet searches, looking for a low vision app to help Felix, that he came across an application for the Dr. Sam Genensky Video Magnification Award offered by the Council of Citizens with Low Vision International. Glenn Reges said he completed the application

and then waited.

As the school year drew to a close, they received notification Felix had been selected as one of three individuals to receive a pair of the innovative electronic glasses, NuEyes, the head-worn visual prosthetic.

As Moore continued to instruct Felix on how to use the smart glasses, Glenn Reges asked about their durability. Moore explained the device features technology originally designed for the military. "They are nearly indestructible, except for water, and they are packed with high tech gadgets that will help Felix see," she said as Felix grabbed a book and set it on the table in front of him.

Moore described some of smart glasses' features. "NuEyes has a set of lenses, a digital camera, a computer with 64 GB storage, Bluetooth and a light," she said. "I like it because it's voice activated," Felix called out looking at his book. "Glasses make bigger," Felix said.

Everyone looked at the monitor. On the screen was the text, magnified. Moore noted there is a small handheld wireless controller if Felix preferred to use that, rather than voice commands.

Moore described how the camera located on the nose bridge worked. She explained the camera live-streams what's going on around Felix, then plays it back on the lenses he sees but with a brighter, sharper, and larger image. "The camera can focus at all distances, near, mid, and far," Moore said.

With that, Ina Reges asked Felix to go upstairs and check on his brother. Felix darted off wearing the glasses. Via the monitor, everyone followed Felix, seeing what Felix saw through the monitor – the walls of the kitchen, the steps, down the hall, through a doorway, and into his brother's room, and the bed where Felix looked down and at his brother. "He's here," Felix called.

According to the manufacturer's website, NuEyes are the first ever wireless, lightweight head-worn device that is voice activated and includes text-to-speech recognition, OCR. In other words, the glasses can read aloud any print seen through the lenses.

Also, unlike magnifiers commonly set up on tables for those with eye diseases such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, or retinitis pigmentosa, a person using NuEyes is not tethered to a screen.

Instead, the head worn visual prosthetic can go anywhere – in the car, to restaurants, the mall, out and about because there are no wires, no screen to carry. The smart glasses hold the computer in their frames with the screen located on the inside lens, in front of the viewer's eyes.

"The first time Felix put the smart glasses on, he jumped up and down," Glenn Reges said. "Then he ran upstairs and got three books. Never did that before... My hope is that Felix will be able to go into the regular classroom with these glasses."

REACHED FOR COMMENT after the training session and asked how she thought the meeting went, Moore answered, "While being adopted by the Reges' was clearly a blessing, a second stroke of good fortune, if not a miracle has found its way to Felix.... He will now be able to enter a room full of people and see who's there. Enhance his school involvement by participating in regular class sessions and walk across the street and experience his neighborhood. And, for the first time be able to see the faces of his mother, father and brothers, and sisters from further than two feet away."

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH JULY 28

Vendor Application Deadline.

Reston Community Center is seeking arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and civic organizations of all cultures for the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

THROUGH JULY 31

Backpacks for Students. Various times at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Christ the King's Team Service is collaborating with Reston's aid to families organization Cornerstones and school supplies collection organization Kids R First to help youngsters in the community. Collections will run through July; drop off in the church lobby. Visit www.gflutheran.org or call 703-759-6068.

TUESDAY/AUG. 15

Candidate Filing Deadline. Reston Community Center (RCC) is seeking interested candidates to run for seats on its Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a nine-member body responsible for oversight of RCC. All residents of Small District 5, age 18 or older, are eligible to run. Candidates must complete a Candidacy Statement in order to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. Candidacy Statements will be available at RCC facilities or online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1. The deadline for candidacy filing is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

LETTER

FROM PAGE 4

plus years and was vice president at one time of the railroad union so my mother was very workers rights oriented and my father's family were bankers. My paternal grandfather was vice president of National Boulevard Bank in Chicago. So I get an interesting perspective.

It does not make sense to me that they are going after this failsafe program for the most disadvantaged of our country. This is a safety net. There are so many other programs that need to be examined. But I cannot understand this assault on the human condition of our citizens. There are black ops programs that get unlimited funding. The waste is in these special interest programs. No one is investigating the \$100 toothpicks. Somehow the health and welfare programs are the target for cutting when in actuality government waste in these other pet projects should be addressed. We have projects that have no accountability.

Valerie Benson
Burke

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Taking Care Of Business



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The cats. The car. The dentist. The pancreatic enzymes. It was a week that typically isn't. As often as my credit card was swiped these past few days, I'm amazed its magnetic strip is still magnetized. To quote my deceased mother, Celia: "It's enough already."

Oh well, what's done is done, though it definitely needed doing. And aside from the fact that I didn't have the actual money, fortunately I had the available credit, which I was grateful to have had. I mean, how long can you put off necessary evils/expenditures before they rear their ugly consequences? And though money doesn't grow on trees (linen actually), credit seems to, and so the to-do list now has some cross-outs/"has-dones" finally.

Now the anxiety about neglecting the "to-dos" is replaced by the worry about the cost/need-to-pay the "having-dones." Nevertheless, the cats have had their vaccinations shot current.

The car now has a passenger window that goes down – and back up, a check-engine light that no longer illuminates, a blower that will now provide heat in the winter and a defogger when needed, and as it turns out a bit of unexpected air conditioning.

The dentist has referred me to an oral surgeon (since the teeth were both "unrestorable"/not root canal candidates) who will extract two teeth from my mouth and hundreds more from my bank account/probably credit card – again, but no doubt get me back on a course of dental correction.

The pancreatic enzymes, the most expensive bottle of pills I buy (I consume upwards of 55 pills per day) is an expense I incur every three months and does something to help my immune system keep the lung cancer in-check, a priority if there ever was one.

Paying to keep on playing (so to speak), by maintaining this kind of normalcy enhances the feeling that life is indeed still being played. And not that my attitude/philosophy in such responsibilities is totally affected by yours truly having been diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, to be specific, but as the old punchline says: "It doesn't hurt." And avoiding hurt is definitely part of the fighting-cancer strategy; along with avoiding stress, eating healthy, exercising and boosting one's immune system.

I guess what I'm realizing that I have two lives, sort of, the usual and customary life: work, play, day-to-day stuff and the cancer life: lab work, chemotherapy, scans, oncologist, pills, lifestyle changes, etc. On some days, they are parallel. On other days, they intersect. And though they may be separate, they are inter-related. What benefits one is likely to positively affect the other.

Additionally, a negative in one life will likewise have an adverse consequence in the other. However, the requirements to maintain their respective lives is different. Yet balance/co-existence must be maintained in order for one to remain "together."

Two separate halves will not make for a responsible whole, but rather lead to an emotional one. And if there's one attribute that a cancer patient/survivor must have, it is emotional wherewithal. Failure to do so in one's cancer life will likely spill over into the non-cancer life (and vice-versa) and cause a kind of an adult version of failure to thrive.

Cancer might win the battle in the end but you can't let it win the battle in the interim. Fulfilling your every-day responsibilities helps give that life the kind of accomplishment that aids and abets in your fight against your cancer life. Moreover, handling your cancer life gives you the confidence and optimism to live your non-cancer life.

Granted, the two lives might not exactly be the best of friends, but they must be partners of a sort. The sort that is independent, appreciative, respectful and considerate.

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

Preliminary Injunction Granted In Lawsuit Over Reston Town Center Parking

The Fairfax County Circuit Court granted a preliminary injunction against Boston Properties subsidiary South of Market, LLC, and its Park RTC smartphone app and parking system for the Reston Town Center.

The injunction restricts Boston Properties from enforcing its pay-to-park system on guests who visit Jackson's Mighty Fine Food & Lucky Lounge on Democracy Drive and park in the town center's Orange Garage.

The preliminary injunction was issued on June 13 in a lawsuit that Jackson's filed against Boston Properties in the Fairfax County Circuit Court: "Jacksons MFF RTC LLC v. BP South of Market, LLC et. al."

The restaurant filed the lawsuit on Thursday, March 23, and is seeking to force Boston Properties to pay \$500,000 in damages the restaurant suffered from the town center's paid parking system. The lawsuit also demands the system be scrapped.

"The question presented is whether a dispute over the installation of a paid parking system between a commercial landlord and a tenant, who had been promised free parking, supports the granting of a preliminary injunction," Judge John Tran wrote in a letter to attorneys involved in the lawsuit. "A preliminary injunction is an extraordinary remedy. It is a

temporary determination of rights before the final judgment of the merits of a case. It commands the enjoined party to either refrain from taking certain actions or to take specific actions. It is granted by a court in its sound discretion only after taking into consideration well-established equitable principles."

As a condition to the injunction going into effect, Jackson's was required to post a \$25,000 bond payable to South of Market, LLC should it lose the lawsuit, according to the preliminary injunction order.

A FINAL DETERMINATION and ruling has yet to be made by the court. The next trial date is set for February 2018, according to Katherine Kanner, a spokesperson for Jackson's.

"We are pleased with the ruling ... granting a preliminary injunction and reinforcing Jackson's view that the current Park RTC system creates confusion and concerns for our guests," Jon Norton, CEO of Great American Restaurants, said in a press release. "Jackson's puts its guests first and we are delighted that they will no longer be forced to use the cumbersome Park RTC app or the current pay-to-park system in the Orange Garage."

"From the beginning, we have asked Boston Properties to uphold our lease rights and the ruling is a step in the right direction," Norton added.

The official statement from Boston Properties after the injunction was issued, according to its spokesperson, Kathy Walsh, was: "Boston Properties is reviewing the court's opinion and considering their options."

The paid parking system that was imple-

mented in January has been met with resistance from both merchants and shoppers, including this lawsuit, a Change.org petition, the formation of a Merchant's Association comprising town center proprietors against the parking system and a "Park Free RTC" march on Saturday, March 4, that attracted hundreds of people who walked around the town center's grounds for nearly two hours in protest.

The Reston Merchant's Association, led by Aaron Gordon of the Gordon Food Group and the owner of the Red Velvet Cupcakery in the town center, issued a press release on March 27 that said merchants have seen a precipitous drop-off in foot traffic and sales during weekdays.

"The community has spoken and they are fed up with paid parking," Gordon said in the press release. "People don't want to hand over their license plate number and credit card information to Boston Properties."

As a result of all of this, we see that many of our best customers are boycotting RTC altogether and others have said they will never come back."

SEVERAL RESTAURANTS AND RETAIL owners and general managers shared their latest sales data in the Merchant Association's press release:

- ❖ Red Velvet Cupcakery: March sales were down 19 percent and projected a yearly drop of 25 percent.

- ❖ Big Bowl: March sales were down 26 percent and down 4,500 customers over last year.

- ❖ Busara: March sales were down 18 percent.

- ❖ The Counter Burger: March sales were down approximately 24 percent.

- ❖ Dawn Price Baby: February sales were down 18 percent, while all other locations were up an average of 20 percent for the same month.

- ❖ The Eyewear Gallery: February sales were down 29 percent.

- ❖ Potomac River Running: March sales are down 37 percent, while its seven other locations sales were higher.

- ❖ Edibles Incredible Desserts: February sales were down 28 percent.

- ❖ Ted's Bulletin: Sales are down significantly on the year, while other locations have even or higher sales compared to last year.

Boston Properties implemented several changes to its parking regulations on June 5, which allowed one hour of free parking for all guests who start a parking session in the town center's garages on weekdays and free parking within the garages for all guests on weekdays after 5 p.m.

The garages are free on weekends and street parking is free on Sundays.

As Jackson's continues to pursue its claim for a breach of its lease rights, parking will remain free at all times for Jackson's guests in the Orange Garage.

— FALLON FORBUSH



Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

"With view in Mind" — Lake Anne Quayside July 2016; Lake Anne Quayside July 2017, by Christine Waleski, Waterview Cluster, Reston.



PHOTO BY JOHN LOWMANS

Snapshot

Double Rainbow over Lake Anne at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 23.