

Carla Crawley Ito as Black Stache, and Gary Bernard DiNardo as Boy/Peter in "Peter and the Starcatcher" from Reston Community Players.

# Magical Frolic at Reston's CenterStage

NEWS, PAGE 8

Citizens Shape  
Assembly Agenda

NEWS, PAGE 3

Arts Council  
Awards Grants to  
Three Reston Groups

NEWS, PAGE 8



# OPINION

## Pulling Legal Status from Local Salvadorans

**Bad for communities, bad for the economy, bad for the families, and no upside.**

**I**t's going to hurt right here in Northern Virginia.

As this administration continues its persecution against immigrants, it will move to end protected status for more than 200,000 Salvadorans, tens of thousands of whom live among us as neighbors, coworkers, friends, business owners, homeowners.

These neighbors, Salvadorans who came here in the wake of terrible natural disaster and political unrest, have been living and working here legally since 2001 at least. Temporary Protected Status was given to approximately 217,000 Salvadoran immigrants living in the United States at the time of the disasters.

Their families have added almost as many U.S.-born children. They are intertwined with naturalized citizens and other legal residents from their country, with the withdrawal of protected status affecting a community far larger than the TPS recipients. These communities are concentrated, intensifying the overall impact, and more live here in the D.C. suburbs than anywhere else.

On average, Salvadoran TPS recipients have been in the U.S. for 21 years; one-third have mortgages. These are people who have had legal work permits, who suddenly will not be able to work legally here. Their mortgages, and the mortgages of people who depend on them, will be at risk. Removing the ability of recipients to work legally will increase the risk of foreclosure, with negative economic impact across communities.

Salvadorans with protected status pay sales and property taxes. The communities they live in will be damaged. Their children will be more at risk. Our economy will be damaged.

**THE SALVADORAN IMMIGRANT** population is most concentrated in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, where 165,000 El Salvador-born residents make up 2.9 percent of the population.

Salvadorans in the United States sent \$3.6 billion home to El Salvador in 2012, 16.5 percent of that country's GDP.

Virginia has nearly 45,000 El Salvadoran TPS residents, almost all in Northern Virginia, and

concentrated in particular neighborhoods. Arlington has identified just four census tracts with more than 1,000 Salvadoran residents each (two with more than 1,400). In 2015, the most common birthplace for the foreign-born residents of Virginia was El Salvador, accounting for 96,515 Virginia residents. Fairfax County in 2010 was home to 43,566 Salvadorans.

Analysis shows that when Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian workers with TPS are removed from the labor force, the United States will lose \$45.2 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade, according to Immigrant Legal Resource Center. When TPS holders lose their work authorization, it will result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade, as calculated by the ILRC.

All of that shows why this will damage communities and the economy. It says nothing about the harm to families. But the harm is great.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**Sources:** American Progress, Pew Hispanic, Center for Immigration Studies, U.S. Census, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, local government demographic data.

## General Assembly Off to Lumbering Start

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

**T**he General Assembly is convening for its annual session on Wednesday, Jan. 10. Hopes that the historic election results of November brought forth have dimmed somewhat as the drawing of lots to settle the results of the final district race gave the Republicans a one-member advantage to control the House of Delegates. Many wonderful people have been at work

on the terms for a power-sharing agreement. Now the incentives for such reform have diminished with the acceptance of a disputed ballot that led to the Democrats losing a seat that would have made for a partisan tie in the House and much more likelihood of a power-sharing arrangement. There is likely to be some reform of the process but not a change of one-party dominance that has thwarted efforts to deal with some major issues.

I continue to be impressed with the makeup of the House of Delegates as the new members are reflective of the people of Virginia.



For the first time in our history women will make up half the membership of the Democratic caucus. The new members bring wonderful backgrounds, expertise, and life experiences that will bring a greater sense of reality to legislative debates. We will make progress on more issues for sure but maybe not as great as I led people to believe when election results were announced.

One of my greatest concerns is that the thousands of men and women who chose to take part in the electoral process for the first time in ways other than just voting not become disillusioned with the process and retreat from it. Make no mistake about it: the outcomes of the legislative and statewide races in Virginia in 2017 were historic. Voter turnout in these races was greater than in any other year with the same seats to be filled. The solid Republican majority of 66 to 34 was reduced to 51 to 49. Senior members of the majority with more than adequate monies to finance their races lost to

a public uprising. All involved in this process can rightfully be proud. All that activity has been focused on campaigning; now we must turn to governing.

I hope that all those who campaigned so hard for candidates will identify one or perhaps several issues upon which they can focus their attention and with the same techniques of phoning, social media, door knocking, rallying and more can help persuade members of the legislature to vote responsibly on the issues. Just as we sold voters on candidates, we need to sell legislators on important issues. Such campaigns can make a difference in the outcome of legislation.

Political parties on both sides will be eager to take credit for the outcomes of elections in which they participated. Without a doubt, the success of elections this cycle came from the women and men who volunteered — sometimes in organized groups or acting as individuals — that made the difference. Political parties can learn from these people. Please do stay involved, for your participation can make such an important difference as the General Assembly lumbers along.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Voting Party Line

To the Editor:

The Republican Party celebrated the New Year with the recent passage of their so-called "tax reform" bill. While some of us may enjoy modest and temporary tax cuts, the bill is a gift to our nation's plutocracy whose tax cuts are substantial and permanent. All this

will come at the cost of an exploding federal deficit. The fiscal rectitude preached by the Republicans during the Obama years was pushed aside when it came time to do the bidding of the moneyed interests they are beholden to.

The bill was hurriedly written in a slapdash manner, with no serious analysis of economic impacts, and rushed through the legislative

process in part to avoid public scrutiny. It complicates the tax code and will no doubt bring a host of unintended consequences. One foreseeable consequence is new opportunities for tax cheats, who will be further emboldened by the fruit of long-term Republican efforts to diminish IRS enforcement powers.

Sadly, District 10's Representa-

tive Barbara Comstock voted for this bill. The excuses she offers to justify her vote show once again that she is just reliably voting the party line regardless of the interests of her constituents or our nation. The people of District 10 can only hope that 2018 will bring them better representation.

**Richard Markeloff**  
Herndon

Reston  
**CONNECTION**

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@RestonConnect

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**Published by**  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to  
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

**Fallon Forbush**  
Reporter  
fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com

**Mercia Hobson**  
Contributing Writer  
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

**Andrea Worker**  
Reporter  
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

**Mike Salmon**  
Editorial Assistant  
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

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
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  
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION**  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com







Jeanne Lavelle of Fairfax, with the assistance of interpreter Jessica Holt, addresses the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly. Lavelle advocated for funding to ensure that deaf and hearing impaired children are not left “functionally illiterate” because they are not given the opportunity to learn language skills.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Theresa Sheipe of Fairfax was one of many members of the “More Recess for Virginians” group who either spoke or supported from the audience in favor of protecting and expanding recess in Virginia schools.

## Citizens Shape Assembly Agenda

Fairfax delegation to General Assembly hears from public before heading to Richmond.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he 2018 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly convenes on Wednesday, Jan. 10. Before the state senators and delegates head off for Richmond, many of the Fairfax County contingent met with constituents in a Saturday, Dec. 6, public hearing at the County Government Center.

More than 100 registered speakers and their supporters braved single-digit temperatures for the opportunity to tell their elected representatives just what they hoped to see included in the upcoming legislative agendas.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova welcomed the delegation, and then began the hearing as “Speaker # 1,” representing the interests of the entire county.

Funding for the educational needs of the county was first on Bulova’s ask list — a theme that was often repeated during the marathon five hour-plus hearing. She followed that request with an appeal for funding for WMATA, citing that reliable and safe public transportation is critical to the economic health of the region.

**THE GROUP** “More Recess for Virginians” came out in full, green t-shirted force, asking the delegation to support legislation that would include recess as part of the “instructional hours” in elementary schools. Recess supporter Theresa Sheipe from Fairfax asked the legislators to provide the School Board more flexibility to better serve the children, and Shannon Hamilton, Ph.D., a neuroscientist from Alexandria, added “Science is on the side of recess. We hope you are, too.”

Other topics included concerns for the environment and climate change impact, with many arguing for renewable energy

sources, and several opposing what they consider the “influence of Dominion Energy” on Virginia policies. The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, 350 Fairfax, and The Climate Reality Project put forth speakers representing their organizations, among the dozen or so individuals who also spoke on the issue.

Social services advocates were also well represented. Speakers from the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, The ARC of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board, Northern Virginia Family Services, and Social Action Linking Together, along with numerous individuals, like Jeanne Lavelle with the Virginia Association for the Deaf, urged the delegation to consider the needs of the community’s less fortunate and the more vulnerable.

Several of the social service organizations also supported the expansion of Medicaid in the Commonwealth, as did speakers from the county government employees union, SEIU Virginia 512. State Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) responded to the “expansionists” that they wouldn’t find many dissenters on that topic among the legislators on the dais.

Advocates for stronger gun safety laws, bipartisan redistricting and voter protection, the decriminalization of marijuana, banning solitary confinement in prisons, funding of judgeships, immigrant support, and providing more powers to the civilian police force review panel and auditor all had their turn



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) meets with Bill Barfield, second vice president, Legislative Committee co-chair for the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Barfield, a mathematician who lives in Fairfax, and Tim Thompson, the Federation’s president, presented their representatives with a list of 11 legislative issues for consideration.

at the microphone.

In past years, citizens had more opportunity to talk with their representatives after the hearing, but the length of this year’s event saw several of the legislators called to other duties before the close, and even the majority of the citizen activists did not make it to the moment when Saslaw called “time.”

**A HANDFUL** of the delegation did linger, including state Sen. Chap Peterson (D-34), state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), and Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86). Petersen took a few moments to chat with his constituent Bill Barfield, who had testified and presented the legislative issues put forth by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association.

Boysko will be sponsoring the Dignity Act this session, and supporting in-state tuition legislation, as part of her agenda.

Favola provided information on her 2018



State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) admits she has her work cut out for her in the 2018 Regular Session of the Virginia Legislature. She’s tackling Paid Family Leave, Gun Safety, Domestic Violence Prevention, Medicaid Expansion, K-12 education reforms and improvements, and Equal Taxing Authority for Counties, to name a few.

Legislative Agenda.

High on the list is working to get counties the same taxing authority as cities. “Counties are providing the same services as cities, and the discrepancy in taxing authority is really unfair,” she said.

Paid Family Leave, Gun Safety, K-12 Education reforms and enhancements are also in her sights. Favola admits that some of her proposed legislation requires taking some “big steps,” but that on many of the issues, “many small steps have already been taken, so there’s reason to be optimistic.”

To track what state senators and delegates are up to in the General Assembly, to contact them, or to track the progress of proposed legislation, visit [www.virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://www.virginiageneralassembly.gov).



# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

**Art Exhibit.** Through Feb. 17, various times at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Featuring the work of Paulina Peavy, namesake of “Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina,” the first exhibition to bring together a selection of Peavy’s works across disciplines including works on paper, paintings, films, texts, and numerous mixed media masks. Visit [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org) for more.

**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](http://potomacriverrunning.com).

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

## THURSDAY/JAN. 11

**Yoga at the Library.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Local yoga instructor Madhavi Rao will lead this yoga session. Water provided. Bring a mat. Sponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

## JAN. 11-FEB. 4

**“45 Plays for 45 Presidents.”** NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop Theatre Company opens a hysterical take on history with the play “45 Plays for 45 Presidents”. The play, which is already selling out performances, presents a series of 45 two-minute plays — one for each American President. In a female-forward twist to the amusing premise, NextStop’s production also casts five women as all the presidents. Performances are Thursdays through Sundays. General admission, \$20-\$55 at [www.NextStopTheatre.org](http://www.NextStopTheatre.org) or by calling 866-811-4111.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 13

**Community Service Projects.** 9 a.m. at Southgate Community Center 12125 Pincrest Road, Reston. Join friends and neighbors in honoring Dr. King’s legacy by serving your community. Call 703-435-7986 or visit [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org).

**Musical Commemorative.** 3-4 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Orchestra celebrates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through symphonic works, spirituals, and songs inspired by his legacy. Featured performers will include students from Al Fatih Academy, the Men’s Chorus of Martin Luther King Christian Church of Reston, song stylist Beverly Cosham and Bryan Jackson. Visit [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org) for more.

**Curator’s Talk at GRACE.** 3 p.m. at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Lily Siegel, executive director and curator at GRACE, will discuss Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina through the lens of Peavy’s life and relationship to the art of her time. Free and open to the public. All ages. Call 703-471-9242 or visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 14

**Voices of Inspiration.** 4 p.m. at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. 28th Anniversary program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This event is sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Christian Church and includes many Reston faith communities. Call 703-435-7986 or visit [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org).

## MONDAY/JAN. 15

**Children’s Performing Arts Series.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. *Doggie Doodles* by Bob Brown Puppets. Like doggies? Come watch these



**Left: Tamika D. Mallory, co-chair of the 2017 Women’s March on Washington, will give the keynote address at the 2018 Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration.**



**On Tuesday, Jan. 16 it’s a Cricket Concert, 7 p.m. at Amphora, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. “Cricket Tell the Weather” is an indie string band from the CT-NY area featuring bluegrass-inspired original music. \$11 Members, \$12 Non-members. Visit [www.restonherndonfolkclub.com](http://www.restonherndonfolkclub.com) for more.**

pups perform with their buddy Samson, the strong man. This puppet show is full of doggie antics sure to delight little ones. Ages 1-10. \$4 in advance/\$5 at the door per person, per show. Children under the age of one are free. Call 703-787-7300 or visit [herndon-va.gov](http://herndon-va.gov).

**Social Justice Advocate Speech.** noon at at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Tamika D. Mallory keynote address is at noon, followed by a community lunch. \$5 for Reston residents and employees, and \$10 for all others. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or call 703-476-4500.

**Especially for Youth.** 4 p.m. at RCC-Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Children will rotate through a series of activities including a performance, an age-appropriate video, and arts and crafts. All activities will be based on the history of Dr. King and the civil rights movement. Call 703-435-7986 or visit [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org).

## TUESDAY/JAN. 16

**Sam’s Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Join former library director Sam Clay as he leads a book discussion. January’s title is “God Bless the Child” by Toni Morrison. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

**Cricket Concert.** 7 p.m. at Amphoras, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. “Cricket Tell the Weather” is an indie string band from the CT-NY area featuring bluegrass-inspired original music. \$11 members,



**The “45 Plays for 45 Presidents” ensemble includes Caroline Kashner, Brittany Martz, Chloe Mikala, Mary Myers, and Sarah Anne Sillers.**

## ‘45 Plays for 45 Presidents’

NextStop Theatre Company opens a hysterical take on history with the play “45 Plays for 45 Presidents.” The play, which is already selling out performances, presents a series of 45 two-minute plays — one for each American President. In a female-forward twist to the amusing premise, NextStop’s produc-

tion also casts five women as all the presidents. Performances are Thursdays through Sundays from Jan. 11 to Feb. 4 at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. General admission, \$20-\$55 at [www.NextStopTheatre.org](http://www.NextStopTheatre.org) or by calling 866-811-4111.

mushroom tartare with cheese toast, Merquez burger with cream cheese spread and hand-cut fries, and malted chocolate chip cookie ice cream sandwiches for dessert. Recipe booklet included. \$55 per person. Call 703-707-0233 or visit [monamigabi.com/news](http://monamigabi.com/news).

**Weaving Workshop at GRACE.** 5 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Exploratory weaving workshop for ages 18 and up. Students will leave with a completed wall hanging. \$45 for Reston residents/\$55 for nonresidents. Register at [restoncommunitycenter.com](http://restoncommunitycenter.com). Call 703-471-9242 or visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org).

**Meet the Tattoo Artist.** 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Meet Gilda Acosta and explore getting a tattoo. Her work will be on display Jan. 9-Feb. 10. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.org/](http://www.artspaceherndon.org/) for more.

**Flower Photography Expert.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts to attend Patty Hankins’ presentation on how to take fabulous photographs of flowers, both in the garden and in the wild. Hankins is the author of “Wildflower Meditations: A Gift for the Spirit” and [BeautifulFlowerPictures.com](http://BeautifulFlowerPictures.com). Visit [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 21

**Multi Cultural Hip Hop.** 3 p.m. at RCC-Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Color Orange: A Hip-Hop Concert about friendship and multiculturalism. Call 703-435-7986 or visit [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org).

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 24

**Red Cross Blood Drive.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

**Meet Me at the Movies.** 10 a.m. at at Bow Tie Cinemas, Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St. Reston Association presents “LBJ.” Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Email [Ashleigh@reston.org](mailto:Ashleigh@reston.org) or call 703-435-6577.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 25

**Dollars and Sense.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. The discussion will focus on “Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World” by Michael Lewis. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 27

**Post-Rock, Jazz Band .** 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featuring the Touch Combo band where pop, blues, and folk meld with classic melodies and rhythmic innovation. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.org/](http://www.artspaceherndon.org/) for more.

\$12 non-members. Visit [www.restonherndonfolkclub.com](http://www.restonherndonfolkclub.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 18

**Yoga Storytime with Little Twisters.** 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Read a classic children’s book, then act it out using yoga moves and poses. Cosponsored by the Friends of Reston Library. Age 3-5 with adult. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

**Community Food Packing.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia will hold its next monthly Weekend Food for Kids packing. For further information contact Lynn Barron: [LynnB517@verizon.net](mailto:LynnB517@verizon.net) or visit [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 19

**Improv-Extravaganza.** 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. For one-night-only, The Alden’s (the) Unruly Theatre Project and Loudoun County High School’s Improvasaurus will bring their signature improv styles to ArtSpace Herndon. Suggested Donation of \$10. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.org/](http://www.artspaceherndon.org/) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 20

**French Cooking Class.** 10 a.m.-noon at Mon Ami Gabi, 11950 Democracy Drive. Join Chef Phil Frederick and learn to prepare wild



# 2018 Color of the Year: Ultra Violet

## Mixed reactions from local tastemakers who offer design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

It's a moment that interior designers anticipate all year: the announcement of the Pantone Color of the Year. Ultra Violet is the selection for 2018, and local designers are giving it a mixed reception.

"Interiors have gone so neutral, I look forward to suggesting... Ultra Violet, a color [that] can bridge warm and cool gray neutrals," said Moira Denson, interior designer and assistant professor of Interior Design at Marymount University.

"There's nothing subtle about Ultra Violet. It's one-dimensional and difficult to decorate with, except in very small doses," said interior designer Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Interiors and Bossy Color. "I find the color loud. 'Look at me!' It screams."

The selection by Pantone, the self-described global authority on color, is intended to be a harbinger of the hue that will be on trend in the coming year. The organization's color gurus spend about nine months observing trends in industries ranging from film and entertainment to art and fashion.

This year's pick can add a burst of vibrancy to a home's interior in impermanent ways, advises interior designer Cathleen Gruver of Gruver Cooley. "Some quick easy ways to use the color are adding throw pillows, which are relatively inexpensive and easy to trade out," she said. "Accent plates on a dining table are an option for those who may not want to commit in their home."

"Use this color in extremely small doses," added Elliott. "If you really love this color, I suggest using it as part of a larger pattern. Don't buy a solid purple pillow; choose a pretty floral that has some Ultra Violet in it."

For those with less trepidation about Ultra Violet, interior designer Sarah Glenn of Braswell Design + Build in Alexandria, said, "The powder room is a great place to incorporate deep colors in interesting ways. Install a graphic violet wallpaper behind a bright white pedestal sink, or paint the ceiling a high gloss violet to reflect the decorative lighting in the room."

Dark and dramatic cabinetry, which Glenn says is trending this year, offers an-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOIRA DENSON

**"Ultra violet sets a mood that allows all my landscapes to feel grounded," says artist Moira Denson, who is an assistant professor of Interior Design at Marymount University**

other use for the Pantone pick. "Go bold and incorporate a deep violet island or base cabinets into a new kitchen," she said. "Incorporate a violet glass mosaic tile on your shower floor or as an accent stripe around tub walls. I especially love violet glass paired with the grey and taupe tones of

wooden white marble tile."

Some designers describe Ultra Violet as commanding, particularly when used inside a home. "This shade of purple is a powerful color and one that I would use as an accent," said interior designer Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors. "A little bit will go a long way. It is also a great color to pair with other colors, it is a very friendly complementary color."

"Good pairings include green and purple, a classic combination, but I've always liked red with purple," added Elliott. "Ultra Violet is a vivid color, so make sure you use equally strong colors with it so it doesn't dominate a palette."

Pair it with gold and yellow tones, suggests Denson, who is also an artist. "I paint skies all the time," she said. "It's what watercolorists do. To me, shades of the ultra-violet are the most pleasing sky. It works super well with what we traditionally think of skies: blue toned. It sets a mood that allows all my landscapes to feel grounded."

In announcing the selection, Laurie Pressman, vice president of the Pantone Color Institute described Ultra Violet as, "a blue-based purple that takes our awareness and potential to a higher level. Ultra Violet communicates originality, ingenuity and visionary thinking that points us toward the future."

## Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel From Now to WOW in 5 Days Guarantee

### TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



**Free Estimates  
703-214-8384**



Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)

Select your products from our Mobile Showroom and Design Center

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999



## Learn About Advertising in the Connection and Digital Options!

Advertising in the Connection and upcoming special sections:

[CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING](http://CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING)

or call **703.778.9431**



Let us know about an upcoming event

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

## THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online

### NEW YEAR, NEW ADVERTISING OPTIONS! JANUARY

1/10/2018.....	HomeLifeStyle
1/17/2018.....	A+ Camps & Schools
1/24/2018.....	Neighborhood Outlook
1/31/2018.....	Connection Families; Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
1/31/2018.....	Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/7/2018.....	Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month

Email [SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM) for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.



Have The Connection emailed directly to you every week!

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

**LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online  
**703-778-9431**  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Burke Connection
- Centre View
- Chantilly Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Old/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Harmon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection



**Announcements**

**We pay top \$ for STERLING,  
MEN'S WATCHES,  
JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY,  
FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.**  
  
**Schefer Antiques**  
703-241-0790  
theschefers@cox.net

**Employment**

**At Home Parents & Retirees**  
More than sales, join us and  
enhance life in your community  
**Need and have discipline  
for flexible hours?**  
  
Work from Old Town and/  
or your home office  
Full or Part Time  
Sell print and digital advertising  
campaigns  
Area's most trusted local media  
Sell all or any combination  
of 15 distinct markets  
Print & Digital Marketing  
Web sites • Sponsored content  
• Email blasts • Social media  
Attract new customers based  
on upper income profiles  
Competitive compensation  
plus commission  
  
One page cover letter & resume  
to sales@connectionnewspapers.com

**LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK**

[www.Facebook.com/  
connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)



**Find us on Facebook  
and become a fan!**

[www.Facebook.com/  
connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online  
The Connection to Your Community

[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

**Announcements**

**Announcements**

**Earn more with Quality!**  
★★★ **30 YEARS OF SERVICE** ★★★  
**Looking for CDL A or B drivers to deliver  
new trucks all over the US and Canada.**  
**Experience preferred. Must have DOT physical and be  
willing to keep logs. No DUIs in last 10 years, clean MVR.**  
**Quality Drive-Away INC.**  
**Apply Online at**  
[www.qualitydriveaway.com](http://www.qualitydriveaway.com)  
**or call 574-642-2023**

**TELL US  
WHAT  
YOU  
THINK**  
**SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE**  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter)

**SPORTS**

# Seahawks Compete, Win in Holiday Contests

The South Lakes High School indoor track and field teams spent the holiday break qualifying for postseason meets and winning an inaugural throwers-only contest.

SLHS started the break with the PR Holiday Invitational Dec. 23 at Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md., where senior Aly Rayle, junior Nicole Post and sophomores Mary Gregory and Hannah Waller won the 4x400 meter relay in a 6A State meet qualifying time of 4:03.04.

Senior Alex Loukili also qualified for the state meet with a winning time of 2:35.52 in the 1,000 meter run. He teamed with seniors John Eggeman, Brandon Crisp and Alex Wallace for a Region meet qualifying time of 3:33.69 in finishing third in the 4x400 meter relay. Ronak Cuthill, also a senior, qualified for region with his winning throw of 46-11.50 in the shot put. The girls 4x200 meter relay team of Gregory, junior Alana Pardo and sophomores Rhema Konadu and Alyssa Smith finished fourth in a region qualifying time of 1:49.39.

The Seahawks returned to Landover Dec. 27 for the Friends of Indoor Track Invitational where Gregory finished second in the 500 meters with a state qualifying time of 1:17.58. Senior Jamie Richards qualified for the region meet with a throw of 35-05.50. She finished fourth. Cuthill led the SLHS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Ronak Cuthill, a senior, led the South Lakes throwers in winning the inaugural Nike Throw Down Dec. 29 at James Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax.**

throwers in winning the inaugural Nike Throw Down Dec. 29 at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax.

His throw of 49-11.50 placed him second in the meet and gave him a spot in the state championship meet in February. Performances by sophomore Caleb Miller (41-03.50, sixth), junior Jon Lister (36-11.00, 12th) and senior Michael Akpalou (36-02.50, 14th) help the Seahawks win the competition among 48 competitors.

Richards finished seventh in the girls division with a region qualifying throw of 34-11.25. Junior Megan Allison threw 30-02.00 for 16th and qualified for the Liberty District Championship.

## Herndon, Vienna Students to Perform at Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta

**L**opez Studios, Inc. Performing Arts School in Reston and Harmonia School of Music and Art in Vienna will be headed to the 2018 Junior Theater Festival Atlanta, happening Jan. 12-14, 2018 at The Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta, Ga.

The nine Lopez Studios, Inc. Performing Arts School Preparatory School students, 8-17, will present selections from Disney's "Aladdin JR." for adjudication.

The 10 Harmonia School of Music and Arts students, ages 11-14, will present selections from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast JR." for adjudication.

Lopez Studios, Inc. Performing Arts Preparatory School is a private award-winning Performing Arts School in Reston. For more than 20 years, its programs have integrated four basic principles of development that capitalize on the skill-building qualities inherent to arts instruction. Through instruction at Lopez Studios, Inc. students are encouraged to develop the facets of character, integrity, discipline and service through interactive instruction, practice, sharing, and performance.

Lopez Studios has enjoyed past success at Junior Theater Festivals.

Harmonia School of Music and Art provides high quality performing arts education to the D.C. Metropolitan Area.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Lopez Studios, Inc. Performing Arts School Preparatory School students, 8-17, will present selections from Disney's "Aladdin JR."**



**Harmonia School of Music and Arts students, ages 11-14, will present selections from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast JR."**



# BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## THROUGH JAN. 26

### Coat Drive to Benefit Cornerstones.

Collection in building lobbies. Help us help those in need in our community stay warm this winter. Reston Town Center will be accepting new or gently used winter coats (in good condition and cleaned), and new hats, gloves and scarves. Items will be collected in boxes located in building lobbies for donation to Cornerstones. Visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

## FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will present the **2018-19 school year (FY 2019) Proposed Budget** at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at Jackson Middle School at 7 p.m. The School Board plans to hold a budget work session on Jan. 22, and a public hearing on the Proposed Budget on Jan. 29, with additional hearings on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, if needed. Get more information on the FCPS budget at [www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019](http://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019).

## MONDAY/JAN. 15

Schools Closed. All Fairfax County Public Schools will be closed on **for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 16. See the 2017-18 school year calendar at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu).

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 17

**Public Meeting.** 7 p.m. in Room 106 of the Herrity Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold its annual public comment meeting on the agency's proposed fee adjustments. The public meeting agenda includes a brief presentation on the fee process followed by an opportunity for public comment. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting) for more.

## MONDAY/JAN. 22

### NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon

**Program.** 11:30 a.m. at Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Speaker: Richard Eimas, Tax Advisor & Enrolled Agent, Block Advisors Tax & Business Services Topic: Impact of Tax Cuts & Jobs Act. The cost of the luncheon is \$18 which includes tax and a small gratuity. Additional tips are welcome but not required. Call your reservation and choice of entree to Shirley Boning at 571-442-8910 or e-mail [Shirley.boning@comcast.net](mailto:Shirley.boning@comcast.net) no later than Thursday, Jan. 18.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 24

**Public Hearing – Planning Commission.** 7:30 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Board of Supervisors authorized the consideration of a Comprehensive Plan amendment for the Sunset Hills Road realignment. The adopted plan for this area recommends three different options for how the intersection of Sunset Hills Road and Hunter Mill Road could be modified. The Board of Supervisors requested that staff consider a realignment of Sunset Hills Road to Crowell Road as a replacement to these three options. The proposed Plan Amendment recommends that Sunset Hills Road be realigned to Crowell Road and that a roundabout be considered as the intersection control. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/current/sunset-hills-realignment](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/current/sunset-hills-realignment) or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission/)

## FRIDAY/JAN. 26

**Nomination Deadline.** Nominations are being accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation for Virginia's 2017 Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year. Parents, students, and teachers are welcome to submit a nomination and photo online. Visit [www.fcps.edu/news/nominations-open-2017-virginia-outstanding-crossing-guard](http://www.fcps.edu/news/nominations-open-2017-virginia-outstanding-crossing-guard) for more.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, CALL KAREN AT 703-778-9422

<b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>A&amp;S CONSTRUCTION</b> SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. <b>703-863-7465</b>		Good is not good, where better is expected. <b>-Thomas Fuller</b>	<b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>Patios &amp; Drainage</b> Your neighborhood company since 1987 <b>703-912-6886</b>	
<b>ELECTRICAL</b> <b>K &amp; D ELECTRIC</b> <b>COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE</b> Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc... <b>Licensed/Bonded/Insured</b> Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 <a href="mailto:lektrkman28@gmail.com">lektrkman28@gmail.com</a>		<b>ELECTRICAL</b> <b>J.E.S. Services</b> <b>Free Estimates - Fully Licensed &amp; Insured</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting &amp; Landscaping Design</li> <li>Drainage &amp; Water Problems</li> <li>Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New</li> <li>Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid</li> <li>Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose</li> <li>Retaining walls of all types</li> </ul> <b>All work Guaranteed</b>		
<b>GUTTER</b> <b>GUTTER CLEANING</b> Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards <b>PINNACLE SERVICES</b> Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email <a href="mailto:jamil@lawnsandgutters.com">jamil@lawnsandgutters.com</a> web: <a href="http://lawnsandgutters.com">lawnsandgutters.com</a> Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		<b>TILE / MARBLE</b> <b>BATHROOM REMODELING</b> by Brennan Bath and Tile Partial or Full. Kit. Floors, Backsplashes. Specializing in Ceramic, Porcelain, Glass Tiles and Natural Stones. Also repair work. 35 yrs exp. <b>www.brennan-tile.com</b> <b>703-250-2872</b> Licensed • Bonded • Insured		
<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b> <b>Power Washing</b> Go from green to clean, do you have mold on your siding rotten wood that's a hoa violation? We do houses, decks, fences, side walks, etc. Deck and fence repair, deck staining and sealing. <b>Licensed &amp; Insured • Free Estimates</b> email: <a href="mailto:jnave@comcast.net">jnave@comcast.net</a> <b>703-987-5096</b>		<b>TILE / MARBLE</b> <b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b> Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. <b>Summer Cleanup...</b> Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience – Free estimates <b>703-868-5358</b> <b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>		
<b>A&amp;S Landscaping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Concrete work</li> <li>Retaining Walls • Patios</li> <li>Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion &amp; Grading Solutions</li> <li>French Drains • Sump Pumps</li> <li>Driveway Asphalt Sealing</li> </ul> <b>703-863-7465</b> LICENSED <b>Serving All of N. Virginia</b>		<b>ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:</b> expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with <b>THE CONNECTION DIGITAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email Marketing</li> <li>Social Media</li> <li>Sponsored Content</li> </ul> <b>FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING</b>		
<b>RN. CONTRACTORS, INC.</b> Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic <b>Phone: 703-887-3827</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:rncontractorsinc@gmail.com">rncontractorsinc@gmail.com</a></b> <b>www.rncontractors.com</b>		An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>		

## Litter Box Humor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

We have five indoor cats: Biscuit, Chino, Twinkle, Sloan and Andrew, ranging in ages from 11+ years to 5+ years. We live in a two-story converted log cabin with approximately 1,750 square feet, closets not included. Closets in which you're bound to find cats, especially in the winter.

A few moths back, we contracted to have our two full bathrooms, one on each floor, renovated. Given that our house is over 250 years old, not likely a normal renovation. So far the renovation has taken months, as we were told, and as such, we wanted to employ some kind of strategy where we weren't constantly worrying about cats coming and going, sneaking outside, disappearing, and getting in the way of the workman and/or possibly suffering some kind of injury in the process. (Particularly true of Andrew and Biscuit who, uncharacteristic of many cats, are not the least bit put off by unknown people wandering about the house.)

And sure enough, after dinner on the first night FOLLOWING DEMOLITION, Andrew and his sister, Sloane, managed to break through some protective plastic surrounding the door blocking entrance to the upstairs bathroom where they managed to get into the house through an internal wall which had been torn down to the studs. It was their faint meowing which led to their discovery – in the downstairs attic above the kitchen. Their subsequent rescue confirmed that we would need to be extra vigilant to prevent further ado.

To secure the perimeter, we decided to segregate the cats on one side of the house on the first floor: including the kitchen, dining room and my office, with two sets of doors connecting to the living room and to the hall leading past the downstairs bathroom. This disconnect works perfectly because it prevents any escape and it enables the workman to walk in and out of the front door to ply their trade without needing any access to either of the three rooms where the cats are confined.

The cats food and water remains in its usual place in the kitchen. However there is one item (two actually) which has required a major move. You recall I said our cats are 'indoor,' right? And we're confining them to three rooms, right? Have I mentioned their litter boxes yet? Well, I am now.

Not a Herculean task by any means because once cats are shown their litter box's new location, they figure it out. But now their litter boxes which had previously been out of sight and sort of out of mind – one on each floor, have now been placed in two of the three rooms where they've been living most days and they are now most definitely in sight and on my mind.

One box was placed in the dining room where we rarely go at present since it's somewhat cluttered due to the renovation, and the other box was placed in my home office – which box seems to get the most use. (We sort of figured that the kitchen was out of the question.)

My office is approximately eight feet wide by 20 feet long, a space which separates the dining room from the outside wall. The litter box is on the floor at the far end of the room, not at all under foot, but neither out of sight nor out of smell. Where I sit, I am a well-positioned observer of the cats visits to their litter box.

As a consequence of this segregation - designed to secure their safety, and for the subsequent relocation of their litter boxes, in effect, I am now sharing a bathroom with five indoor cats.

All day long I am witness to their litter box proclivities; their arrival and departure, the sights, sounds and smells; their individual tendencies and habits, and of course, their comparative interest in visiting me on my desk before and/or after the paperwork is finished.

Soon we'll have to decide whether to return the boxes to their original location, and risk disrupting yet another new routine. Perhaps we'll leave well enough alone. After all, as any devoted cat owner knows: it's not about us, it's about them.

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



# Arts Council Awards Grants To Three Reston Groups

Greater Reston Arts Center, Public Arts Reston, and Reston Community Players awarded grant funding.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

Last week, The Arts Council of Fairfax County (ACFC), a nonprofit organization funded in part by Fairfax County, corporations, foundations, individuals, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts announced it had awarded grants to three Reston arts organizations for fiscal year 2018.

Greater Reston Arts Center, Public Arts Reston, and Reston Community Players each received an Operating Support Grant. According to ACFC this grant funds arts organizations' basic operational needs. AFCA awards funds through competitive grant applications to Fairfax County nonprofit arts organization in recognition of the valuable programs and services they provide to county residents while also contributing to the stability of these institutions.

Greater Reston Arts Center and Public Art Reston also received a Project Support Grant, which ACFC explains on their website, "...is a non-recurring grant used to support arts organizations in providing activities that engage new audiences in the arts and contribute to the vibrancy as well as the quality of life in Fairfax County."

Lily Siegel, Executive Director and Curator Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), expressed how grateful GRACE was to receive the funding.

"Not only do they help us keep our doors open to the public for free through their Operating Support grants, they encourage us to continue growing and pushing our limits through Project Support for such exhibitions as Radcliffe Bailey: The Great Dismal Swamp and Sue Wrbican: Well Past the Echo and the forthcoming outdoor sculpture by Wrbican in Reston Town Square Park. ACFC is an invaluable part of our community."

"Public Art Reston is extremely grateful to the Arts Council of Fairfax County for its support towards our operations and new public art projects that will take place in 2018. While 2017 marked the 10th anniversary of Public Art Reston's founding, 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Public Art Master Plan for Reston.

Thanks to grants from the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Public Art Reston can carry on its mission to inspire an ongoing commitment to public art and create a new generation of artworks in Reston and as a result has a greater impact in the community



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC ARTS RESTON

**Public Art Reston is one of three Reston arts organization that recently received grant funding from The Arts Council of Fairfax County. Pictured here is M.L. Duffy's 2016 welded stainless steel work, "Mutual Understanding/Mutual Respect." It is an example of one of the many pieces of large-scale art featured by Public Art Reston.**



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HEFFNER PHOTOGRAPHY

**The 2018 Operating Support Grant by The Arts Council of Fairfax County helps support the operational expenses of Reston Community Players as they continue to produce high quality and creative stage performances such as "Aida," pictured here.**

and Fairfax County," said Public Art Reston Executive Director Anne Delaney.

When Jolene Vettese President of the Board for the Reston Community Players, was asked about the award, Vettese responded by writing how the organization will use the award and the impact grant funding has on theatre in Reston. "With the grant award we received from the Arts Council, Reston Community Players is able to provide more funds for scholarships and enables us to continue to provide quality theater in Reston residents' own backyard."

For more information about the arts in Reston including Greater Reston Arts Center's upcoming installation which offers county high school students the opportunity to work with curatorial staff to create competent artworks to be exhibited in the gallery, Public Arts Reston's online map or tours of public art, artist talks and documentary films, or Reston Community Players current season beginning with their next show "Peter and the Starcatcher," a grownup prequel to Peter Pan, visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org), [publicartreston.org](http://publicartreston.org), and [restonplayers.org](http://restonplayers.org) respectively.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HEFFNER PHOTOGRAPHY  
COURTESY RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

**From left: Binta Barry as Ted, Jake Lefler as Prentiss, Raeanna Nicole Larson as Molly Aster and Gary Bernard DiNardo as Boy/Peter in "Peter and the Starcatcher" from Reston Community Players.**

## Magical Frolic at Reston's CenterStage

Reston Community Players presents "Peter and the Starcatcher."

By David Siegel  
The Connection

### Where & When

So, how does a young British orphan lad and his mates become the famous "Peter Pan and the Lost Boys?" How does an orphan even decide to never want to grow up? Does he have some help along the way from someone called a starcatcher? And what does a mysterious trunk have to offer up?

Well, the Reston Community Players will have some answers to those questions and more with its upcoming production, "Peter and the Starcatcher." The production is aimed at anyone interested in having fun while finding out how Peter Pan came to be and what a starcatcher might have to do with it.

Full of fantasy and imagination, the Reston Community Players production is directed by Jolene Vettese with music direction by Beth Atkins. There is a cast of a dozen actors taking on dozens of characters on stage. Featured players include Raeanna Nicole Larson as Starcatcher-in-training, Molly Aster and Gary Bernard DiNardo as Boy/Peter along with a cheeky villain named Black Stache played by Carla Crawley Ito.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" was the winner of five Tony Awards when it first appeared on Broadway in 2012. The show is based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

Vettese called "Peter and the Starcatcher" a unique and fun choice for RCP to produce for their audiences with its clever wordplay, daring movement

and live music. Reston Community Players presents "Peter and the Starcatcher" at Reston Community Center CenterStage, Hunter's Wood Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performances Jan. 19 to Feb. 3, 2018. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. with Sunday 2 p.m. matinee on Jan. 28, 2018. Tickets: \$23 Adults (19-64), \$20 seniors (65 and older), and \$20 students (18 and younger). Call 703-476-4500 or visit [www.restonplayers.org](http://www.restonplayers.org). Note: There is a special sensory-friendly matinee performance on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 2 p.m. This sensory-friendly matinee performance will aim to provide a positive theater experience for individuals of all ages with autism or other sensory-related disabilities.

and live music.

"I wanted to explore what it is like to remember your childhood and to get out of the world of electronics and into the world of our imaginations," said Vettese. "This show is about remembering what it was like to be on the brink of growing up, remembering where our imaginations can take us, and the magic that exists in real life." And the production travels about: from the deck of a ship to a tropical island, and throws in modern references that pop up with great humor.

Inviting audiences to escape into "Peter and the Starcatcher," Vettese proposed that audiences "escape for just a little bit, to a world with Pirates, Sailors, and Mermaids, where starstuff exists and people can fly, where 'to have faith is to have wings.'"

On these cold winter nights, escaping into fun sounds delicious. And along the way take joy in learning a bit of what made Peter Pan who he is in this grownup prequel to the treasured story.