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Reston CONNECTION

The powerful winds of Winter Storm Riley ripped the roots of massive pine tree out of the ground crashing it onto the Reston Town Center sign at the corner of New Dominion Parkway and Temporary Road in Reston. Central Services Facility estimates it will be at least a month before tree cleanup throughout Reston is completed.

Winds Wreak Havoc In Reston Areas

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Honoring Women Who Shaped Reston Development

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
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 NEWSPAPERS

NEWS



Carol Lubin



Jane Wilhelm



Priscilla Ames

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Honoring Women Who Shaped Reston Development

Presentation on four pioneering women to be held on Thursday, March 15.

In honor of Women's History Month, the Reston Historic Trust and Museum and Reston Community Center (RCC) will host a discussion of the pioneering women who shaped and influenced Reston's early development. The event will take place Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at RCC Lake Anne Jo Ann Rose Gallery. Presentations on four founding women, Chloethiel Woodard Smith, Priscilla Ames, Carol Lubin, and Jane Wilhelm, will be followed by a panel discussion led by Restonians Kohann Williams, Pat McIntyre, Laura Thomas, and others.

❖ Chloethiel Woodard Smith was an architect and urban planner in the D.C. area whose work was known nationally and internationally. At one point, she led the largest female-run architectural firm in the United States. As one of the original Lake Anne architects, she designed both Waterview and Coleson Clusters.

❖ Priscilla Ames' mission in life and as director of the developer's Community Center was to welcome newcomers, share all the opportunities Reston had to offer, and refer those in need to the agency best equipped to help. She was indispensable to Reston families and to Bob. He recalled, "She stood at my side at all public functions, cueing me in on the names and proclivities of each person we were there to meet."

❖ Carol Lubin created the "Master Plan" for churches, schools, and community programs and social amenities in Reston before the first people moved in. Referring to Carol, Bob noted, "Reston drew enthusiastic, willing, excited people. When you



Chloethiel Woodard Smith designed both Waterview (pictured) and Coleson Clusters.

get people like that, you're going to be successful."

❖ Jane Wilhelm joined Carol Lubin in late 1964 and served as the first Director of Community Services and The Reston Foundation. Jane noted, "These first years of Reston were Camelot. Everyone who worked here was totally dedicated to the whole thing. It was a fascinating, new idea."

In conjunction with this event, the Reston Historic Trust is acknowledging past and present influential women in all aspects of life in Reston including arts, government, education, sports, and business. For details and to add women to the list, visit <https://www.restonmuseum.org/women-pioneers-of-reston>.

Programs of the Reston Historic Trust & Museum are supported in part by Reston Community Center.

Voting for RA Board Underway

Reston Association (RA) members are urged to vote in the 2018 RA Board of Directors election. Voting opened Monday, March 5 at 5 p.m. and will run through April 2 until 5 p.m.

Four of the nine-member seats are open, one At-Large (1-year term), two At-Large (3-year term) and South Lakes District (3-year term).

Four of the thirteen candidates are running on a slate - Sridhar Ganesan and Travis Johnson are running alongside John Bowman and Tammi Petrine who are seeking other seats. The four created the slate because of common platforms concerning the Tetra purchase at cost of \$2.65M and they oppose a proposal to increase Reston's population density.

Four other candidates are running as the "Alliance for a Better Reston" - Colin Meade, Aaron Webb, Andy Sigle and current South Lakes District Director Julie Bitzer saying they are committed to "implement Bob Simon's original vision" for the community. Reston Now first reported the

slates from mailers.

Adding to the mix, on Feb. 27, the Reston Association Board of Directors named Robert Wood to serve as Acting Chief Executive Officer for RA after Cate Fulkerson stepped down from the position.

According to the RA website, it is the responsibility of the Reston Association's Board of Directors to hire a person to serve as the Chief Executive Officer as well as a appoint officers to fill the four positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Board. As authorized by the association's Bylaws, the Secretary, and Treasurer, while selected by the board, need not be elected directors.

As a whole, the RA board determines the mission and goals of the organization, establishes RA policy and procedures, monitors finances, approves the budgets, and sets the Assessment. The board also approves programs and capital spending.

All Reston property owners and renters can vote.

Money on the Table Required

Board intends to keep options open for a full conversation by advertising tax increase.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Sharon Bulova indicated that the Board of Supervisors will advertise the tax rate March 6 with the full 2.5-cent increase proposed in County Executive Bryan Hill's budget.

"That's not to say that's what we will end up with," she said during a joint budget meeting with the Board of Supervisors and School Board on Feb. 27. School Superintendent Scott Brabrand also attended.

Hill's proposed budget would fully fund the school's budget request, fully fund compensation increases for county employees, and many county priorities.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay heads the supervisors' budget committee. "I think we need to make sure we are able to have a full conversation with our community about the budget that's on the table and knowing that the budget funds our highest priorities, but the only way to do that is to implement a tax increase," he said.

Bulova said she understands the impact the tax rate would have. "We are concerned about that," she said.

"When we advertise the tax rate, that will become the ceiling for what the tax rate can be. It can be lower, it can be the same, but it cannot be higher than what we advertise

"That's not to say that's what we'll end up with."

— Chairman Sharon Bulova on proposed rate increase

on March 6," said Bulova.

The board will officially adopt the FY2019 budget on May 1 after a series of community meetings and public hearings on the \$4.29-billion budget.

If the Board of Supervisors were to adopt the full 2.5 cent tax rate increase, it would amount to an additional \$268 on the average homeowner's annual tax bill.

Sully Supervisor Kathy Smith said she fears talking about an average increase when all homeowners will have different property bills and property assessments. "When talking about averages, I also think it's useful to talk about medians," she said.

Hill came on board as county executive on Jan. 2, 2018.

"We cannot sustain what we are doing. In my view, this is a one year deal that al-

lows us to have a five year strategic look forward," he said.

"It is key that we become a prioritized county so we can effectuate the change that we need to go forward."

The budget would transfer \$2.26 billion to the school system, 52 percent of the total. Funding the school's proposed budget

would bring teacher salaries closer to market rates, said Brabrand.

"Every year we wait is a year teachers can make a choice to go elsewhere," said Brabrand.

See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget for more.



Sharon Bulova



Jeff McKay



Kathy Smith



Bryan Hill



Scott Brabrand

FILE PHOTOS

FAIRFAX COUNTY TOWN HALL BUDGET MEETINGS

- ❖ **Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m.**, Sully District Town Hall, Rocky Run Middle School Little Theater, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly
- ❖ **Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m.**, Hunter Mill Community Summit, South Lakes High School Lecture Hall, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston
- ❖ **Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.**, Great Falls Budget Meeting, Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m.**, Providence Community Budget Meeting, Providence Community Center, First Floor Multipurpose Room, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 14, 7:30pm**, Braddock District Council Annual Budget Meeting, Location To Be Determined
- ❖ **Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.**, Mason District Budget Town Meeting, Mason District

- Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
- ❖ **Monday, March 19, 7 p.m.**, Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall, Location to be determined
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m.**, Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center Community Room, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria
- ❖ **Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m.**, Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield
- ❖ **April 10-12**, Board of Supervisors Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget and FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form to sign up.

Extracurriculars: Secret Sauce of Success

Superintendent's budget eliminates barrier of \$50 activity fee.

School Superintendent Scott Brabrand's budget would eliminate a \$50 extracurricular activity fee that went into effect this year. Eliminating the fee will cost the schools \$1 million, but Brabrand said it was important.

"I believe that extracurricular activities in Fairfax County are the secret sauce of success for our kids," Brabrand said, during a joint budget committee meeting held with members of the Board of Supervisors and School Board on Feb. 27.

Brabrand said he conducted grade point average research every year when he was a principal. "We looked at every kid, and regardless of background, regardless of race," he said, when students were in-

"Extracurricular activities ... are the secret sauce of success for our kids."

— Scott Brabrand, School Superintendent

involved in extracurricular activities they had higher grade point averages.

"Frankly, our kids that do get involved in sports and extracurricular activities already pay a mountain of fees as part of travel, as part of going places and being a part of booster clubs," said Brabrand. "So I don't think an additional fee does anything but set up a barrier for our kids to participate."

Brabrand said two other fees were implemented by the school system for FY2018. Fees will still be mandated for families whose children transfer out of boundary to another school and for students who take

more than six Advanced Placement or I.B. tests.

"The school system pays for the first six," he said.

— KEN MOORE



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

The Oakton Cougars defeated the Westfield Bulldogs 59-54 to win the Concorde District Championship on Feb. 16. This year, students who participated in extracurricular activities like sports paid a \$50 fee, but the superintendent of schools proposes eliminating the fee.

Cornerstones' American Citizenship Class Helps Rebuild Lives

Immigrants and refugees gain control of their futures by becoming U.S. citizens.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Cornerstones in Reston has been helping individuals and families in northwestern Fairfax County for nearly 50 years. The nonprofit organization provides support and advocacy for those in need by connecting clients with vital resources to build self-sufficient lives. Through the organization's comprehensive array of programs and services for housing, food, financial assistance, and childcare, lives change. However, one of Cornerstones' many programs may not be as well known.

It is Cornerstones' free American Citizenship Class, available to all adults age 18 and older. Students are welcome to join the Cornerstones' class at any time. The course is offered on a rolling admission with no class start and class end dates. Students progress at their rate. The course is offered year-round and provides free learning materials. In addition, there are no residency restrictions, but students must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. For those who need help with English as a Second Language, Cornerstones offers separate courses.

The American Citizenship class does more than teach the test facts to refugees and other immigrants. For volunteer teacher, Gillian Sescoc who is a naturalized citizen herself, the class quietly builds the students' trust and self-esteem by creating a sense of community, of family among the culturally diverse students. Sescoc reported there are currently 21 students in the class from 11 countries.

TOGETHER AS A FAMILY, teacher and classmates face the challenging and sometimes daunting journey of each student toward self-sufficiency but do so as Kerrie B. Wilson, chief executive officer at Cornerstones, said in a phone interview, "On their own terms, listening to their dreams."

Recently, Sumayah, a mother and refugee from Baghdad, Iraq, took Cornerstone's American Citizenship class, taught by Sescoc. The course not only helped Sumayah submit her USCIS N-400 application for naturalization, but it helped her to prepare for the Naturalization Interview and Citizenship Test. The naturalization exam is divided into four parts: the civics test questions, the reading



Sumayah became Cornerstones' 127th student to pass the naturalization exam after taking their free American Citizenship class taught by Gillian Sescoc.

part, the writing part and the speaking part.

The class provided the education and support Sumayah needed leading her to become a United States citizen. It took her one step closer and as a U. S. citizen removed "border walls" freeing Sumayah to be reunited with her desperately ill son in a German hospital.

According to Cornerstones, Samayah's son was one of the almost 1,500 children abducted in Iraq, most of whom tragically are never released back to their families. However, after the family paid a ransom to the kidnappers, he was released. Knowing it was unsafe to remain in Iraq, Sumayah, her husband, two daughters and son fled their homeland and made their way toward the refugee camps in Amman, Jordan. Nearing Amman, Samayah's husband suffered a fatal heart attack. Sumayah and her family eventually arrived in Amman and settled in a refugee camp. As time continued, one daughter received permission to live in Jordan and the other in England; her son received permission to live in Germany. Sumayah was allowed to enter the United States and settled in Reston.

However, when Samayah's son became ill in Germany, she could not get a visa to travel there to be with him because she only held an Iraqi passport.

According to Cornerstones' their free American Citizenship class, lead by Gillian Sescoc, provided Sumayah the support she needed to start her journey back to her son. "Sumayah became Corner-

stones' 127th student to pass the American Citizenship exam. When USCIS (the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) heard of her plight, she was able to expeditiously take the oath of citizenship."

"The citizenship class offered by Gillian Sescoc is one of the most impactful services we offer at Cornerstones," said Greg White, MSW and chief operating officer at Cornerstones. "Beyond preparing students to take the citizenship test, Gillian also mentors and links students to additional resources to mitigate some of the other challenges they face in their lives."

Wilson, chief executive officer Cornerstones, described the groundbreaking way Sescoc through her model class program helps the students understand the fundamental concepts of American



Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe (center) and Del. Jennifer B. Boysko (D-86), second from right, welcome Gillian Sescoc, teacher, Cornerstones' American Citizenship class (far left) and her students to the Virginia State Capitol Building in Richmond.

citizenship while building trust, self-esteem, team building skills, and social capital.

Wilson cited some of the special teaching and trust building strategies distinctive to Cornerstone's American Citizenship Class. "They break bread together," Wilson stated simply. "You can see the celebration of community." Wilson added that the instructor's personality also makes a major difference.

She said, "Sescoc is a force to be reckoned with. ... She cares so much about helping."

When asked what set her class apart, Sescoc said, "Some of these students have been through so much as they fled their country. This class is very unorthodox. There is no curriculum and students can join at any time. I take them to Richmond, to Congress. The students are amazed they can

go and get so close to the government buildings." Sescoc explained that if she is absent, former students who are now naturalized citizens teach for her. Known as peer learning, it is a proven method of teaching. "This is their way to give back."

"When a new student comes, we ask them to introduce themselves," Sescoc said. "We see everyone here together, Muslims, Jews, Christians. We are brothers and sisters. ... My class is a bridge to peace, a mini United Nations. ... Right now, I have 21 students from 11 countries. It is a family. We celebrate all holidays."

"What I'm trying to do in my class," Sescoc said, "is not only teach them how to be citizens but help bolster their self-esteem."

For more information about the American Citizenship Class visit cornerstonesva.org.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Paving and Restriping Meeting Set for March 19

The Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Department of Transportation will host a community information meeting to discuss this year's paving and restriping efforts in the Hunter Mill District on Monday, March 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Terraset Elementary School cafeteria, 11411 Ridge Heights Rd, Reston. The meeting provides residents with an opportunity to speak directly with road engineers and transportation planners about the paving program, proposed striping changes and general traffic safety concerns. Information about paving and restriping in the Hunter Mill District will be on display in an open house format, with a presentation at 7:15 p.m.

Community members are invited to give feed-

back on general traffic safety concerns regarding roads scheduled for paving, and the proposed striping changes at the meeting or by submitting comments online via the comment form on the paving and restriping program page. Comments will be accepted through April 6, 2018.

For more information on the 2018 Paving and Restriping Program, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping>. The Hunter Mill District information page, located at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping/hunter-mill>, includes maps, sample photos, the proposed list of roads being considered for paving and link to a comment submission form.

NEWS

Fashion Show, Luncheon to Benefit Fairfax Salvation Army

The Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will hold their 38th Annual Fashion Show/Luncheon Friday, April 13 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. Four male and five female models will be showcasing the latest spring fashions from Lord & Taylor at Fair Oaks Mall. There will be a silent auction of more than 100 items to bid on to support the fundraiser. A table featuring jewelry and attic treasures will be set up for guests to purchase. Entertainment will be provided by Kyle Carney, a student majoring in musical theatre at The Catholic University of America where she is a member of The University Honors Program.

The funds raised will support the programs of the Salvation Army in Fairfax County. The fundraiser helps the auxiliary run its annual stocking stuffer program during Christmas and the back-to-school program of donated supplies and backpacks in August.

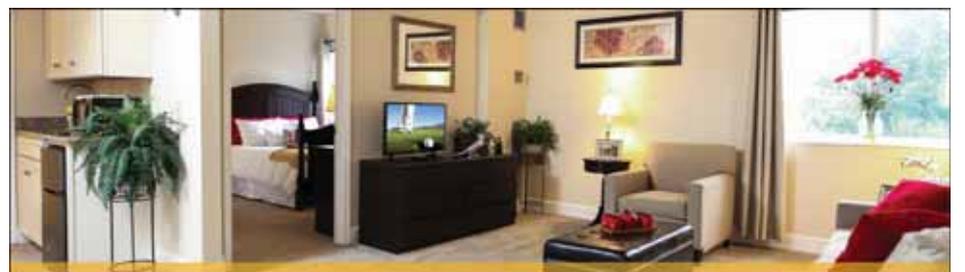
Funds raised also support the Salvation Army's summer program at Camp Happy Land in Richardsville, Va., where children and young adults from the Fairfax area attend a week-long camp. The funds also help support the after-school program, the music program, and two children's homes in Mexico. Currently there are 38 children enrolled in the Fairfax after-school program.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 38th Annual Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Fashion Show will be held Friday, April 13 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. Models shown are Paul Meade and Carolina Hurtado.

Tickets for the Fashion Show/Luncheon are \$50. Reservation deadline is April 1. Contact Jo Porter, ticket coordinator, at 703-690-5245 or jporter@aol.com or Angela Ganey at 703-969-6473 or angela_ganey@aol.com.



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Discussing School Shootings with Children

Open dialogue is key to quelling fear, say mental health professionals.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Helping parents who are grappling with their children's feelings of anger and fear following the recent Florida school shooting and subsequent fallout was a topic that Lisa Jackson-Cherry, Ph.D., department chair and program coordinator, Pastoral Clinical Mental Health Counseling & Pastoral and Spiritual Care programs at Marymount University, had with her graduate students. The class discussed how high profile acts of violence can frighten children who might feel as though they or someone they love could become a victim or find themselves in danger. From mass shootings to natural disasters, an open dialogue with children is key to dealing with thoughts and feelings.

"In most instances, talking about the incident helps to gain some control over what is not controlled," said Jackson-Cherry. "Normalizing feelings and thoughts like fear, sadness, anger, and confusion can help children know they are not abnormal in how they are feeling or thinking."

"First ask what they heard rather than starting by telling them about it," added Joanne Bagshaw, Ph.D., professor of psy-

chology at Montgomery College. "I wouldn't get too stuck on the details. Just get a sense of what they know and make sure it's accurate."

In fact, exploration is key. "Encourage children to express their feelings and validate them," said Bagshaw. "You can start by saying, 'I can understand why you're feeling that.'"

Monitor both the amount and source of information that children receive about high profile incidents, advises Bagshaw. "I would really limit their social media and news intake about the violence," she said. "Videos about the shooting are too traumatic, and watching them can be too traumatizing and too dramatic."

Reviewing the family's safety plan can help children feel secure, advises Bagshaw. It's something she did in her own family. "At my daughter's middle school, you can't just walk into a building like they did in Florida," she said. "I reminded my daughter of this and explained the safety differences between her school and the school in Florida. One thing that you don't want to say is that 'That will never happen here.' You want to focus on what's real and what's realistic."

Maintaining a sense of normalcy follow-

ing a public display of violence can help quell fear that children might be feeling, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University and a licensed clinical psychologist. "Parents play a key role by staying calm, maintaining household routines, explaining that many events we worry about seldom happen, and stating that we will cope with whatever happens," he said. "Parents should place the highest priority on helping children stay safe."

"I would caution against using leading questions like, 'Are you scared?' because this question already implies they should be scared of something and that may not be accurate," continued Jackson-Cherry. "Depending on their answers, parents can assist in having the child integrate aspects of power and control in a situation where they may not be in control."

While putting national events into perspective in a way that children can understand, Short also advises parents to explore emotions. "Ask children what they are feeling and empathize and validate what they say. Ask children how they feel about school," he said. "Is there anything at school that worries them? Be reassuring that you will help protect them."

Reviewing safety guidelines can help children feel secure, says Short. "Parents [can say that] local police are working to keep the community safe. We need to look out for each other," he said. "Say that high-profile violence is unlikely to happen at local schools because of safety procedures. For example, there are more than 130,000 elementary and secondary schools, and we focus on relatively few schools where shootings have occurred."

Even those children who don't express emotions or appear unaffected by news reports of violence might still be anxious about the event. "Many children may not display outward anger or fear but that does not mean they are not fearful, angry, or sad about what they have heard or experienced," said Jackson-Cherry. "I think in most circumstances, parents asking about a child's knowledge of the event would be a good way to start."

Limit a child's exposure to media coverage of acts of violence and discuss it in an age appropriate manner, advises Jackson-Cherry. "If the parent is watching or listening to the news together with their child, try asking, 'What are you thinking or feeling about what just happened or was reported?'" she said. "I asked my 15 year old, 'Has the school discussed the shooting in Florida? Have you had drill in case it were to happen?'"

Leidos to Expand in Reston Town Center

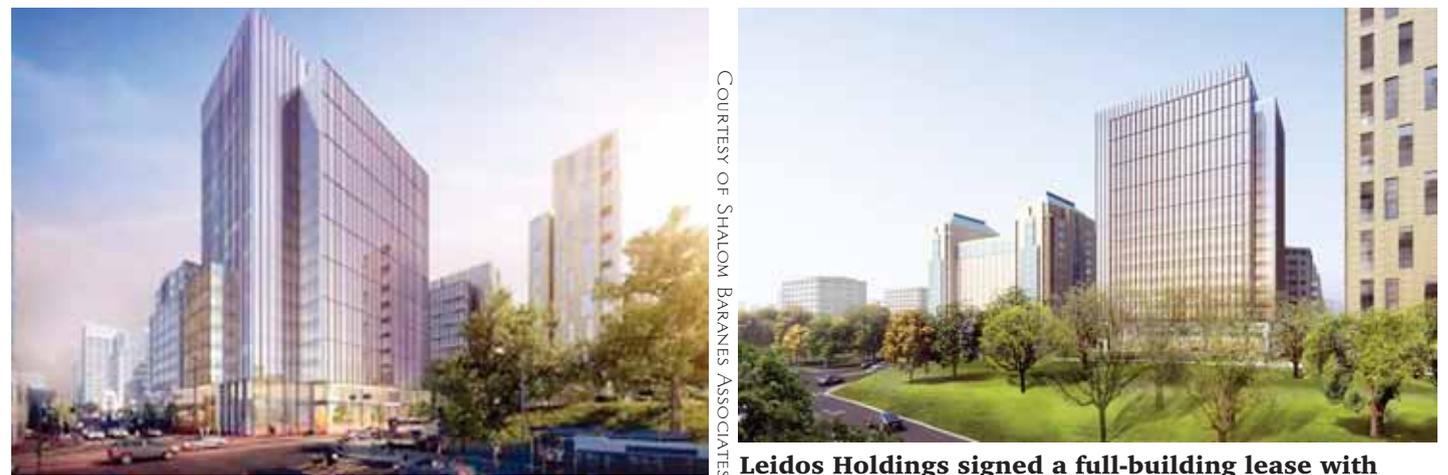
Fortune 500 Company takes the last office space in Reston's urban core.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The face of Reston Town Center is changing as a new generation, faced with the center's limited footprint, vies for office and retail space. The only way for construction to meet the demand is to go up.

On Jan. 30, Leidos, a Fortune 500 information technology, science, and engineering company with 32,000 employees worldwide and Boston Properties, Inc., the largest public owner and developer of office buildings in the United States, announced Leidos will relocate its existing Reston headquarters into a newly constructed building at 1750 Presidents St. in Reston Town Center.

The building presents 267,000 square feet of office space and 8,000 square feet of retail space. With a reported \$10 billion in annual revenue, Leidos will be the anchor leaseholder for the mixed-use building. As a prelude to its Mission, Vision and Values statements, the company



A rendering of the new 300,000 square foot office and retail building by Shalom Baranes Associates designed for their client, Boston Properties, Inc.

Leidos Holdings signed a full-building lease with Boston Properties and will be the anchor leaseholder for the 17-story office to be built at 1750 Presidents St. in Reston.

declares on its website, "Everything we do is built on a commitment to do the right thing for our customers, our people, and our community." According to a press release by Leidos, the new headquarters will be the last office space built in the 86-acre Urban Core of Reston Town Center. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring of 2018. The architectural firm Shalom Baranes Associates (SBA) in Washington D.C. designed the 17-story trophy-class tower for their client Boston Properties. SBA states on their webpage: the tower will "...anchor the east end of Reston Town

Center's original master plan. The building will feature a tenant fitness center, 8,000 square feet of retail space, and 232 below-grade parking spaces on four floors. The design's dramatic angles and stepped massing create opportunities for outdoor space on multiple levels, private terraces on the third and ninth floors and rooftop greenscape and amenity spaces with commanding views of the area."

Leidos reports their new headquarters will house approximately 1,000 employees consolidating existing offices resulting after the company completed its 2016 acquisition of

Lockheed Martin Corporation's Information Systems and Government Solutions division. "We are thrilled to be developing and moving into a brand new headquarters," said Leidos Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Roger Krone. "This will help us centralize Leidos employees in one exclusively-Leidos building, which will make our activities and operations as a company more collaborative and efficient. Our new space will give us the opportunity to build on our culture and brand as a combined company."

Winds Wreak Havoc in Reston Areas

Reston Association estimates it will be at least a month before tree cleanup is completed.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Mother Nature hurled a powerful windstorm at the local area Friday, March 3-Sunday, March 5 as Winter Storm Riley wreaked havoc. The National Weather Service DC/Baltimore reported Dulles Airport with having headwinds gusting to 50 mph or more for 16 hours, a rare occurrence created by the intense low-pressure system offshore.

The sustained wind storm downed trees and power lines in the Reston area and beyond, leaving 192,000 Dominion customers, the majority of them in Fairfax County, without power. Four days after the storm began, a reported 400 Reston customers remained without power as around the clock restoration work continued.

Customers could track efforts to restore power online in real time by launching an interactive map on the Dominion Energy website, www.dom.com and zoom in on a specific area. In doing so, they would be able to see how many people were affected and an estimated time for when power would be restored.

On Twitter, Dominion Energy VA wrote: "We estimate that we'll have the vast majority of you restored by the end of the day Monday, with completion for everyone expected by Tuesday. Our commitment is to get life back to normal for you as safely and quickly as we can."



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The powerful winds of Winter Storm Riley ripped the roots of massive pine tree out of the ground crashing it onto the Reston Town Center sign at the corner of New Dominion Parkway and Temporary Road in Reston. Central Services Facility estimates it will be at least a month before tree cleanup throughout Reston is completed.

Reston Association (RA) reminded people on their website that the Association's Central Services Facility (CFS) employees were working to remove trees that fell during the windstorm and that priority would be given to trees that downed on roadways and pathways. RA crews were also dealing first with

any trees that were hanging or might be a safety hazard.

RA wrote: "Members who have had trees fall on their private property can report the incidents to their insurance companies or private tree removal services. RA is only responsible for downed trees in common

areas."

"CSF workers estimate that it will be at least a month before (tree) cleanup from the storm will be completed. For emergency situations involving downed or hanging trees on RA property, call CSF at 703-437-7658."

GRACE Opens Satellite Gallery

Innovative new space at Signature in Reston Town Center features local artist Craig Moran.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) partnered with Signature, Reston Town Center's newest luxury apartment building located at 11850 Freedom Drive, to present their inaugural installation of year-round art shows. The artwork is installed in an innovative space off the grand lobby of the Signature. Balducci's Food Lover's Market which will open soon on the ground floor of the building sponsored the event held Friday, March 1, from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

According to Signature, the partnership between Boston Properties, Bozzuto Management, and GRACE merges the vision of the Signature building, which is focused on creating distinctive and communal spaces for residents, and GRACE's mission in engaging the community through excellence in contemporary art.

GRACE chose local artist Craig Moran,



Craig Moran, artist, listens to Lily Segal during her remarks at the Opening Reception of his exhibit, Spaced Out.

a member of Washington Project for the Arts, to be the first artist to have his work featured in their satellite gallery space. All exhibitions and opening receptions are free and open to the public.

In his Artist Statement, Moran wrote, "Piles of discarded paintings, decorative paper, and photographs from nature books sit on a table in my studio. I cut out shapes



By MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

"Rise" part of the series Spaced Out by artist Craig Moran is on display at Signature in Reston.

from these materials, rearrange them at random to create new images, and photograph the results.

I repeat this process several times, occasionally cutting up the photographed assemblages to rearrange them further. These spontaneous collages are the inspirations for the oneiric, colorful figures in my paintings."

Moran's artwork is on display Feb. 9-May 29, and is for sale.

Greater Reston Arts Center at Signature is open to the public and located at 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston, VA 20190. Gallery Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The closest parking garage is the Silver garage.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

“RPS Clicks @ USGS.” Through March 29 at the U.S. Geological Survey, National Gallery, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. This show will feature photos of the environment and natural resources, in keeping with the US Geological Survey’s mission. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) will present an exhibition of work by Craig Moran at Signature’s ground floor gallery through May 29. Free and open to the public at Signature at Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. Call 703-471-9242, ext. 114 or visit www.restonarts.org.

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.

THURSDAY/MARCH 8

Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An interactive storytime for you and your child. Age 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Jazz Night. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Lake Anne Coffee House/Wine Bar, 1612 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Patrons may enjoy Mykle Lyons and company as they wine and dine in the cozy second floor wine bar. Admission is free. Call 703-501-6289 or email maurisapotts@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Live Music. 6:30-10 p.m. at Lake Anne Coffee House & Wine Bar, 1612 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Live music in the 2nd Floor Wine Bar. Admission is free. Visit lakeannecoffeehouse.com.

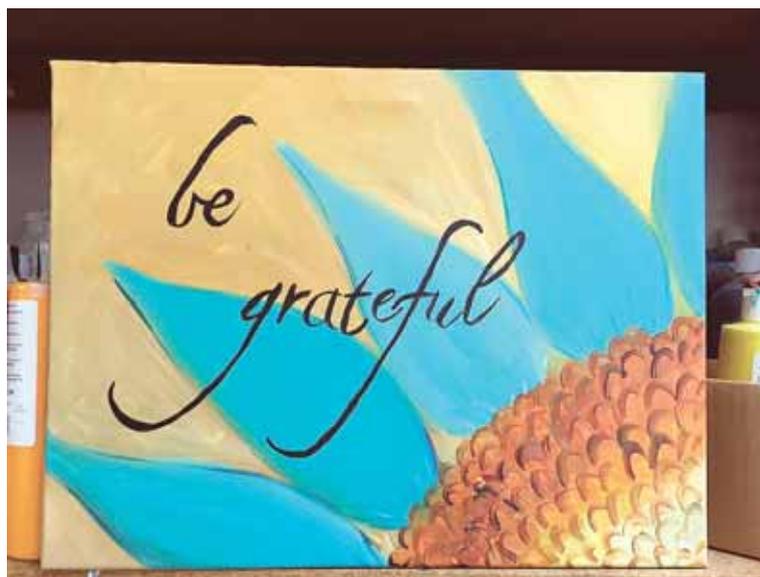
FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 9-10

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. 8 p.m. at Reston Community Center’s CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Tennessee Williams’ Pulitzer Prize winning, “*Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*” is an American classic. Don’t miss this intense drama that sizzles with passion and greed. \$20-\$23. Visit restonplayers.org or call 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

Annual Kids’ Trout Fishing Derby. 8 a.m.-noon behind the Herndon Police Station, 397 Herndon Parkway at the Sugarland Run Trail Stream. The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department will host the 15th Annual Kids’ Trout Fishing Derby behind the Herndon Police Station, where the stream will be stocked with rainbow trout just for this event. For children, ages 2-15. Day of event registration, on site is \$12 per child (bring cash or check). Contact Tim Lander, Recreation Supervisor, Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, 703-435-6800 x2106 or Tim.Lander@herndon-va.gov.

Book Reading. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Laura Murray will read her book *The Gingerbread Man and the Leprechaun Loose at School*. Visit scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.



Big Flower Painting

Design and wine with Mary Sears. \$40 per person covers wine, light snacks and supplies. Each event is limited to 25 participants. Registration is required with payment in advance. No prior art experience necessary. Tuesday, March 13, 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Call 703-956-9560 or visit artspaceherndon.org.

ReelAbilities Film Festival. 3 p.m. at RCC Hunters Woods, CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. ReelAbilities Film Festival presents “How Sweet the Sound – The Blind Boys of Alabama.” Ages 18 and older. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.net or call 703-476-4500.

MONDAYS/MARCH 12

Restaurant Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. at Not Your Average Joe’s, 1845 Fountain Drive, Reston. Every Monday during March 2018, Not Your Average Joe’s in Reston will donate 15 percent of the bill to Assistance League of Northern Virginia. Diners must mention the organization when checking in at the restaurant. Visit www.notyouraveragejoes.com/locations/virginia/reston. Contact karenamster@aol.com about the fundraiser or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 14

Color Me Happy. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Relax, unwind, and color your cares away in our adult coloring session. Invite a friend, date or mate to come along. Coloring pages and pencils provided, or bring your own. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

Geronimo Stilton Book Club. 4:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Meet Geronimo’s assistant editor in “My name is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton.” Age 8-10. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Jazz Night. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Lake Anne Coffee House/Wine Bar, 1612 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Patrons may enjoy Mykle Lyons and company as they wine and dine in the cozy second floor wine bar. Admission is free. Call 703-501-6289 or email maurisapotts@gmail.com.

Pioneering Women of Reston. 7 p.m. at RCC Lake Anne Jo Ann Rose Gallery, A, 4305 1609, Washington Plaza N., Reston. In honor of Women’s History Month, the Reston Historic Trust and Museum and Reston Community Center (RCC) will

host a discussion of the pioneering women who shaped and influenced Reston’s early development. Seating is limited and reservations are welcome. All are welcome to attend. RSVP at 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 16

Live Music. 6:30-10 p.m. at Lake Anne Coffee House & Wine Bar, 1612 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Live music in the 2nd Floor Wine Bar. Admission is free. Visit lakeannecoffeehouse.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 16-18

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Reston Community Center’s CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Tennessee Williams’ Pulitzer Prize winning, “*Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*” is an American classic. \$20-\$23. Visit restonplayers.org or call 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

“Sisters.” 3 p.m. at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Young Actors Theatre Program trains young actors (ages 7-15) in voice, dance and acting over the course of nine weeks of classes and rehearsals, culminating in a final performance of fully produced original musicals. “Sisters,” takes a humorous look at what being a sister is all about. For free tickets (limit of four; first come, first served), contact William.parker@fairfaxcounty.gov.

St. Patrick’s Homeless Shelter Meal. 4-7 p.m. at Embury Rucker Shelter, 11975 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Volunteers to help prepare and serve a St. Patrick’s Day themed dinner for over 100 people at the Embury Rucker Shelter. Visit www.barberafoundation.org/events/st-patricks-homeless-shelter-meal.

Opening Reception. 5-7 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), 12001 Market St #103, Reston. The GRACE Art exhibition features selected works from elementary school students participating in GRACE’s signature art enrichment program, GRACE Art. Emerging Visions features exceptional work from students at local high schools. Free and open to the public. Visit restonarts.org/exhibition/emerging-visions-2/.



Jonathan Bansfield as Brick and Susan Smyth Robertson as Maggie in the Reston Community Players production of “*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.”

‘Cat on a Hot Tin Roof’ at CenterStage

Reston Community Players present classic Southern drama.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

Tennessee Williams’ provocative “*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*” is taking center stage at the Reston Community Center. One of Tennessee Williams’ most well known works, “*Cat*” is part of the Reston Community Players’ 51st season.

“*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*” is the dramatic tale of Brick Politt, an alcoholic; a former star high school football player and his wife, Maggie. She is also known as “Maggie The Cat.” When Brick and family gather together to celebrate the family patriarch Big Daddy’s 65th birthday on their plantation, hidden secrets come to the surface.

“*Cat*” is one of my favorite stage productions. It is an honor to bring these characters to life,” said Sharon Veselic, who directs the show. “While the story takes place in the 1950s, many of the dynamics of the personalities portrayed on stage are still relevant today. It’s a true classic.”

Veselic has cast a dozen actors to perform in the RCP’s “*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.” Jonathan Bansfield plays the character Brick. “Brick is a very complex character. He has a very rich and complicated relationship with those around him, and even with himself. All of this must be conveyed through his interactions and reactions to those around him. He says a lot without saying much.

“I believe that there will be moments in the show for everyone; some comedy and humor,

Reston Community Players present “*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*” at Reston Community Center CenterStage, Hunter’s Wood Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA. Performances March 9-24, 2018. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. matinee on March 18. Tickets, call 703-476-4500 or visit online at www.restonplayers.org. Note: Due to adult themes and brief nudity, this production is recommended for ages 16 and up. CenterStage is accessible and offers listening devices for the hearing impaired.

some sadness and tragedy, some questions, and some answers about what this play was trying to tell us about the complexity of human relationship,” added Bansfield.

For Susan Smyth Robertson who plays Maggie, “*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*” is a classic.” Asked why she auditioned for the role of Maggie, Robertson was clear, “An opportunity to act in a Tennessee Williams drama doesn’t come along every day! I am thrilled to be part of this production.”

Robertson described her Maggie character as “a very complicated woman with many layers and faces, but at heart, Maggie is a survivor. She’s passionate, grasping, charming, manipulative, and raw. She uses any and all tools at her disposal to get what she needs.”

As for the Tennessee Williams’ legendary play title, “*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*,” there is a line said by Maggie that explains it: “What is the victory of a cat on a hot tin roof? — I wish I knew ... Just staying on it, I guess, as long as she can ...”

COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

SPORTS



Hannah Waller, who is competing in her first season of high school indoor track, won the 55 meters in 6.87, a school and meet record.



Isabelle Gulgert, the Liberty District champion, added the title of 6A State champion in 1,600 meters.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sehawks Girls Second in State South Lakes High athletes shine in State Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Paced by sophomore Hannah Waller and junior Isabelle Gulgert, the South Lakes High School girls track team finished second at the 6A State Indoor Track and Field Championships Feb. 23-24 at the Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, Va.

Waller, who is competing in her first season of high school indoor track, won the 55 meters in 6.87, a school and meet record. The time also tied the facility record, is second-place all time among Virginia girls and is the third fastest time in the nation. Waller also won the 300 meters. Her time of 38.50

is just over a tenth of a second off the meet record.

Waller, senior Aly Rayle, junior Nicole Post and sophomore Mary Gregory finished third in the 4x400 meter relay (4:02.12). Waller's only non-top three finish was in the long jump, where she was 14th (15-09.75).

Gulgert, the Liberty District champion, added the title of 6A State champion in 1,600 meters. She ran a personal best of 5:03.94 to win the event and had a personal best of 11:11.45 to finish fourth in the 3,200 meters. Gulgert, Rayle, and sophomores Emily Lannen and Caitlyn

Morris finished fourth in the 4x800 meter relay (9:28.00).

Gregory, along with scoring for the team in the 4x400 meter relay, added to the team's points with a third place finish in the 500 meters (1:14.81) and sixth in the 300 meters (40.93).

Senior Jamie Richards threw a 35-02.50 in the shot put for eighth place.

The boys finished 15th with results that include:

- ❖ Senior Ronak Cuthill, 11th, in the boys shot put (47-02.25)
- ❖ Juniors Nicky Gryski, Calvin Warstler,

seniors Sean Casey and Alex Loukili, 3rd, in the boys 4x800 (8:06.63)

❖ Seniors Pape Ndiaye, Carson Frutchey, Otman Srayi, and junior Stevie Jones, 14th, in 4x200 meter relay (1:34.71)

❖ Casey, 6th in the 1,600 meters (4:27.70)

❖ Seniors Alex Wallace, 12th, 1:07.81 and John Eggeman, 20th, 1:08.75, in the 500 meters

❖ Loukili, 11th, in the 1,000 meters (2:37.06)

❖ Eggeman, Wallace, Casey, Jones, 3rd, in the 4x400 meter relay (3:27.37).

Four South Lakes Athletes Commit to Division I Colleges

On Feb. 14, four South Lakes High School student-athletes celebrated making their formal commitments to four Division I colleges, from left: Bardia Kimiavi for soccer at Northwestern; Kahlil Dover for soccer at VA Tech; Evan Matthes for football at WVU and Spencer Alston for football at Yale.



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NEWS

South Lakes High Students Win Art Awards

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers recognizes their talents.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes High School announced the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers named 14 of their students recipients of the 2018 Scholastic Art Awards, the nation's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition initiative for creative teens in grades 7-12.

Praising the school's art department and award winners, Kimberly Retzer, South Lakes High School principal, said, "South Lakes is incredibly proud of our amazing Art Program. We are excited to have 26 Awards/Honorable Mentions recognized in the Scholastic Art Competition this year."

The website for the Scholastic Awards states the young artists and writers were free to explore any and all topics; there were no pre-defined prompts, and no work would ever be disqualified from the Scholastic Awards because of the nature of its content. As for judging criteria, three areas dominated: originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

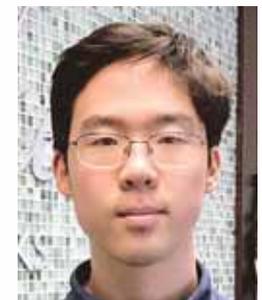
Matt Ravenstahl, Art Department Chair at South Lakes, said, "We are extremely proud of these students and the importance of arts in our school. These students utilized art making to engage experience and construct meaning in regard to a deeper self."

The artists who received either or both Gold Key and Silver Key Awards will be celebrated in a ceremony Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Their artwork will be on exhibition there Feb. 9-March 15, 2018.

The South Lakes High School students named honored recipients of the Fairfax County Art Region 2018 Regional Scholastic Art Award are: Gabrielle Baughman, one Gold Key; Clark Bautista, one Gold Key; Maya Bollino, one Silver Key; Elena Castrence, one Gold Key; Luis Zevallos Garate, one Silver Key; Keita Heinrich, three Gold Keys and four Honorable Mentions; Phoebe Liu, three Silver Keys; Maija Louko, one Honorable Mention; Megan Pickell, one Gold Key; Austin Shea, one Silver Key; Kai Thompson, one



Gabriella Baughman, 17, of Reston – one Gold Key Award: "Art for me is one thing I can always count on."



Keita Heinrich, 17, of Herndon – three Gold Key Awards and four Honorable Mentions: "I had never submitted to an art contest before. Pleasantly surprised by the result."



Lily Vogel, 18, of Reston – one Gold Key Award: "Finding out I had won was great. Finding out I won Gold for Animation was better. My passion is artistic storytelling. I want to be an animator. Being recognized for my passion is amazing."



Phoebe Liu, 16, of Reston – three Silver Key Awards: "For me doing art isn't about feeling happy as much as feeling normal. Drawing is just a natural state of existence for me."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Gold Key and two Silver Keys; Lily Vogel, one Gold Key; Max Wiegand, one Honorable Mention, and Sophie Wilson two Silver Keys and one Honorable Mention.

The artists whose works received a Gold Key Award – Baughman, Castrence, Heinrich, Pickell, Thompson, and Vogel – will advance to the national level.

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BULLETIN

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Sunday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 2 p.m. on March 17 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

MONDAY-THURSDAY/MARCH 7-8

Unclaimed Property. Virginians can visit any of the four events below and find their unclaimed property. This free public service is facilitated by The Virginia Department of Treasury. Learn more at www.VaMoneysearch.org.

- Wednesday, March 7, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Jennings Judicial Center Cafeteria, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax
- Thursday, March 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hollins Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria

THURSDAY/MARCH 8

Design Public Hearing. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a design public hearing on plans to widen East Spring Street from four to six lanes from just west of Herndon Parkway to Fairfax County Parkway in the Town of Herndon. Visit www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/e_spring_st.asp.

What Can Estate Planning Do? 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Attorney Bettina Lawton will cover what participants need to know to make sure that what they have worked to accumulate goes to the people or charities that they value. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Hunter Mill District Community Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Hear presentations from County and Public Schools staff on the FY2019 proposed budget. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/.

TUESDAY/MARCH 13

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's topic is Maintaining Relationships While Caregiving. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

Community Food Packing. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, invites community members to help pack food for its Weekend Food for Kids program. This critical program provides nonperishable food over the weekend to children who receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year. Arrive at 9:30 to help with setup. Email LynnB517@verizon.net or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Grant Application Deadline. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia is encouraging community groups, schools, churches and other non-profit organizations to apply for funding under two new mini-grant programs designed to address habitat concerns (audubonva.org/conservation-grants/) and youth education (audubonva.org/news/2018/2/6/youth-education-grant).

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Reflections



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A few weeks back at my last post CT-scan appointment with my oncologist (when all continued to be amazingly stable), he finally asked me the question I've been wondering if he'd ever ask: "Mr. Lourie, I talk about you all the time, how well you're doing; is there anything I can tell people about what you're doing that might help them?"

My first reaction was to laugh and then ask if I even have cancer. I mean, typically, one diagnosed with an incurable disease doesn't just live life merrily along as if the diagnosis was a mere inconvenience, no matter what he or she may or may not be doing. My oncologist assured me that I indeed have cancer and even offered up some news about my tumors with which I was totally unfamiliar.

Five years ago when I was hospitalized (due to excessive fluid in my lungs), in the course of the procedure, the thoracic surgeon did a DNA profile of my tumors to determine if I had a specific mutation (allowing for more targeted treatment). Unfortunately, the ALK and ROS-1 mutations were not confirmed. In pursuit of more current information, more recently, I had a liquid biopsy (a blood test) which tested for the EGFR and T790 mutations. Again, no confirmation. As it stands now, I am as unclassified. For the nine-year moment then, I remain in treatment without the targeted precision so many of my fellow cancer survivors have been extraordinarily fortunate to have. Yet life goes on.

So what am I doing? Other than laughing in the face of death (my best attribute), which if anecdotal reports are to be believed, truly is the best medicine, a bit more. Remaining positive and generally upbeat is a parallel corollary to humoring yourself and those around you.

But more specifically and perhaps uniquely, I am supplementing my standard of care with some non-Western care: alkaline water, organic apple cider vinegar, and about 60 pills a day, most chosen for their qualities of strengthening my immune system and/or eliminating the toxins from my body. I can't say I'm eating really right, but neither will I admit to not eating totally wrong. Reducing stress and exercising are popular advisories in my control. One out of two will have to do.

However, as I told my oncologist, whatever I'm doing I've been told to do by my holistic health and fitness coach. She knows what, how and why. (I might as well be Sergeant Schulz from "Hogan's Heros: "I know nothing.") I don't feel qualified to speak to any of what I do.

Yes, I've survived but, I'm a sports and chocolate guy not a science and medicine man. All I can do is list what I'm doing. I can't chapter and verse any of it. I'm not NIKE, but I just do it. It's a routine and I rarely stray. I do add stuff occasionally but to think any of what I do might have a bearing on another cancer patient's survivability? Not hardly, and that's what I told my oncologist. Dina suggested the alkaline water. I suggested my "coach."

I guess I'm just not that deep of a thinker. I trust people the same way that as a salesman I want them to trust me. I'm not leading anybody astray, and I'm providing them the best available knowledge. I'm not manipulating. Nor am I maneuvering. I'm simply managing dos, don'ts, maybes, what ifs and why nots.

Moreover, I'm trying to think outside the box while respecting and appreciating that the box has its purpose as well.

Heck, for all I know, my non-Western stuff has had minimal impact on my life expectancy and the standard of care from my oncologist has provided the most.

Maybe I'm just an anomaly, pure and simple: a nine-year-plus non small cell lung cancer survivor. What am I doing? Trying not to abuse the privilege, that's what.

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

OPINION

No Guns in the Classroom

Gun safety is an American value.

BY MONTE F. BOURJAILY, IV

In the aftermath of the horrific school shooting in Parkland, Florida, the President of the United States and the head of the National Rifle Association, have advocated arming teachers and hardening schools in other ways. These are shriveled, reactive measures that appeal to fear and rely on the false statement that “to stop a bad guy with a gun, you need a good guy with a gun.”

Introducing guns into the classroom doesn't demonstrate the virtue of the Second Amendment, it poisons the educational environment, increases the risk that innocents will be hurt and simply challenges “the bad guy” to creatively get around the armed target. We can uphold the Second Amendment, and the rule of law, and ensure Americans' safety and sense of security with common sense measures, like repealing the Dickey Amendment, that focus on preventing unsafe and malevolent use of firearms.

Arming teachers is a terrible idea. First, it changes the dynamic in a classroom, placing

the weapon between the teacher and the students. Even if its purpose is to protect students, the weapon is a distraction and a barrier. Second, and more importantly, you are introducing more projectile weapons into a chaotic environment, dramatically increasing the likelihood of friendly fire killing children, other teachers and law enforcement seeking to assist.

How well do police and soldiers perform in the high stress conditions of an actual confrontation? Does the stress and opportunity for errors increase or decrease when multiple shooters (friend and foe) are added to a situation? Third, in response to the argument that a shooter will avoid schools knowing that teachers are armed, what is to prevent the shooter from wearing body armor? It is easy to buy. We need to stop reacting and problem-solve and innovate, which is our true nature.

Guns are tools, like cars, that can cause serious injury or death when used improperly or with ill-intent. I also am a hunter who grew up respecting guns.

Why is there a “gag rule” (the Dickey Amendment of 1996) on Centers for Disease Control research into the effects of gun violence? How are guns different than cars? The National Highway Transportation Safety Commission collects data on motor vehicle fatalities through

the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Gun owners have a Second Amendment right to own and use guns responsibly, not unconditionally. All Americans have a right to gain a better understanding of how guns are used in ways that harm other Americans and in ways that can pose a risk to all of us.

We must respect the Second Amendment, like we uphold all of the Constitution as the rule of law.

However, there are few absolutes under the Constitution, including how far we interpret the right to bear arms. Freedom of Religion does not permit the practice of human sacrifice and Freedom of Speech does not permit fighting words. In short, my right to swing my arms ends at the tip of your nose. We Americans are at our best as problem solvers and innovators.

We use data and common sense to find solutions. We confront threats, rather than fearfully wait for them. Can we find common ground on reasonable gun control by listening to each other and recognizing reasonable rights and reasonably accepting certain limits in respectful recognition of the rights of others?

Monte F. Bourjaily, IV is a lawyer who teaches US Government, American History and Philosophy at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. All submissions are in his personal capacity.

Follow the Children, Lives Depend on It

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

Last week I ended a walking tour of Capitol Grounds as I always do with a stop at the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial that is between the Executive Mansion and the Capitol. The Memorial is very attractive as a physical structure, and the story it tells is especially meaningful to

COMMENTARY

Virginia's history. Featured prominently on the Memorial is a bronze statue of 16-year old high school student Barbara Johns. In April of 1951 Barbara had become increasingly upset at the fact that she had to attend school in a tar-paper building without adequate heat or a gymnasium while the white kids in the area attended a new brick school. The plan she put together led to

all the students walking out to dramatize the unfairness and inequities of the segregated school system. Once the differences were so dramatically shown, there was no going back. Two NAACP lawyers agreed to represent the students, and their case made it to the Supreme Court and was combined with the Brown v. Board of Education case decided in 1954. It took another decade for Virginia to desegregate its schools.

As I recounted that story to the visitors to the Capitol it became clear to me that we are at another Barbara Johns moment in Virginia albeit of a very different kind. I shared my realization with members of the House of Delegates in a floor speech last week. I pointed out that the children of the Com-



monwealth are bringing to our attention our failure to pass any kind of legislation to keep them safe from gun violence. Not only have common-sense gun safety bills not been passed, they have been defeated with

the most minimal debate and with as few as four votes in a subcommittee defeating them. A bill that would have allowed guns in places of worship was withdrawn at the very last minute.

As guns and the violence of which they are a part proliferate, the students through their walking out of schools and by their expressions of concern are seeking answers that incumbent legislators are going to have to answer. I told my colleagues that we could expect when we get back home in a

few weeks to get questions as to our lack of action to address gun violence as an issue that warranted our attention. We can expect to get these questions first from our children and our grandchildren and at appearances at educational and civic events. There really is not an adequate answer that will make sense to the children and to parents. My youngest grandchildren often follow my answers to their questions with a follow-up, “why?” Try telling a child that one person's constitutional right can take away another person's life.

Society had to answer the questions raised by Barbara Johns and her classmates even as it took decades. We now have to answer the questions raised by the children at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida and those expressed here in Virginia. The General Assembly cannot tarry in taking action. Lives depend on it!

Robert Andrews
Herndon

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Arming Teachers: Suicidal

To the Editor:

The President/NRA proposal to arm school teachers is like taking a knife to a gunfight.

The proposal is equivalent to a suicide situation for teachers who are foolish enough to go along with this scheme. First a shooter

will probably use body armor which is very effective against handgun fire.

The shooter will also probably use an AR-15 assault rifle with about twice the firing rate of a handgun. The shooter will be using magazines of 30 rounds or

more, compared to the handgun's 8-10 round magazine. The shooter will have been killing people and will not hesitate to shoot a teacher. The school teacher will probably hesitate because he/she has never killed or even shot at a person before.

The hesitation time will probably be increased if the shooter is a young person. This hesitation will be deadly to the school teacher.

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