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Reston CONNECTION

Celebrating Youth Art in Reston

Abigail Gordon, 7, a second-grader Dogwood Elementary School, points to her original artwork selected for exhibition at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center Lake Anne held in celebration of National Youth Art Month.

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COMMENTARY

Ganesan, Johnson, Bowman and Petrine for RA

Restore internal controls, transparency and no more Tetras!

By JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT
PRODUCER/HOST



Now that the Reston Association has collected its annual assessment from homeowners, they sent you in the last week the ballots for this year's RA Board of Directors election. When you paid your assessments this time, I hope you noticed there was something unique about the bill. For the first time in its history, the amount of your assessment was actually less than the prior year's. This reduction is in a way symbolic of the importance of this year's Board election. Your votes will determine if the cleanup and reform process begun by the current Board majority continues or is halted. This election is especially critical.

Four of the nine-member Board seats are to be filled, one At-Large (1-year term), two At-Large (3-year term), and South Lakes District (3-year term). There are thirteen candidates in all.

Four candidates have formed a slate united by the goal of continuing the cleanup

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

and reform of the Association. They are: Sridhar Ganesan and Travis Johnson running for the two 3-year At-Large slots; John Bowman for the 1-year At-Large slot; and Tammi Petrine for the South Lakes seat. The four offer a strong, varied skill set to oversee the organization. Mr. Ganesan, who shaped the Association's assessment reduction, is a

senior financial systems manager. Solid IT experience comes with first-time candidate Travis Johnson while John Bowman knows Reston's transportation system and its shortcomings as a result of chairing the RA Transportation Committee. Ms. Petrine adds high energy with planning and zoning experience as Reston 2020 Co-Chair. They share the goal of completing the reform of RA's financial systems which failed during the Tetra/Lake House purchase and rehabilitation debacle. Restoring competent management and transparency along with an effective conflict of interest policy will give homeowners and residents a basis for renewed trust in the Association.

I for one do not want to see RA ever repeat the sham experience of the Tetra referendum and acquisition or the procure-

ment mismanagement and waste which followed. Also, RA members should not have to be concerned about potential conflicts of interest on the Board such as we have seen in recent years. There are several other candidates competing in this election. They are people who care about our community and, with few exceptions, seem qualified to serve. I happen to think that the four candidates recommended above offer the best choices because of exceptional individual skill sets and experience plus their shared commitment to RA reform.

I do have reservations about the other slate. It includes a couple of candidates who

were supporters of the flawed Tetra acquisition—which troubles me. One of them both supported the purchase and served on the Board during the period of the badly mismanaged facility rehabilitation.

Whatever you do, don't forget to vote in this election.

P.S. In the last week, some Reston schools were locked down for several hours because guns were reported inside. Fortunately, the reports turned out to be unfounded. There were no guns. But what a scare for all concerned! Perhaps next time, we'll look at the debate about how to keep our schools safe.

WEEK IN RESTON

Diva Central Returns March 24

Reston Community Center will host its Annual Diva Central Prom Dress Giveaway on Saturday, March 24 from noon until 6 p.m. at RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza in Reston.

This one-day event is the perfect shopping experience for teens to outfit themselves for prom, spring formals and other dressy events.

The event is open to any current high school or middle school student who is in need of a dress, shoes, jewelry and other accessories. Everything is absolutely free. Limit one dress per person.

RCC put out the call for dress and accessory donations during February. The community generously responded, with hundreds of dresses filling RCC's donation boxes. Volunteers, including a makeup artist available from 4 to 6 p.m., will be at the event to help teens select shoes, jewelry, handbags and other accessories to complete their formal look.

For more information about Diva Central, contact RCC Collaboration and Outreach Director LaTanja Jones at 703-390-6158 or LaTanja.Jones@Fairfaxcounty.gov.

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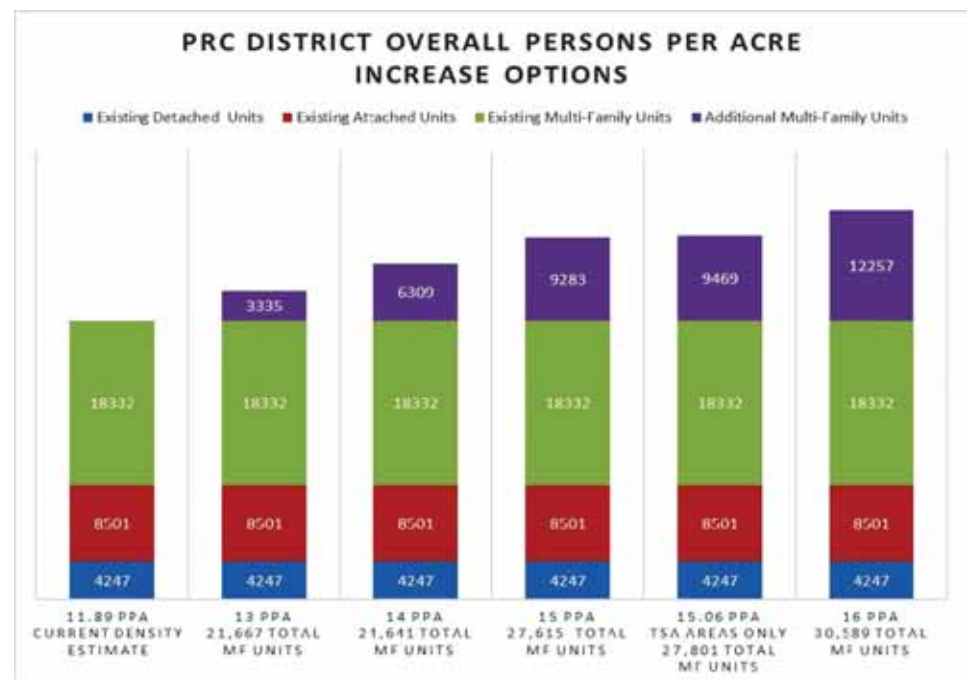
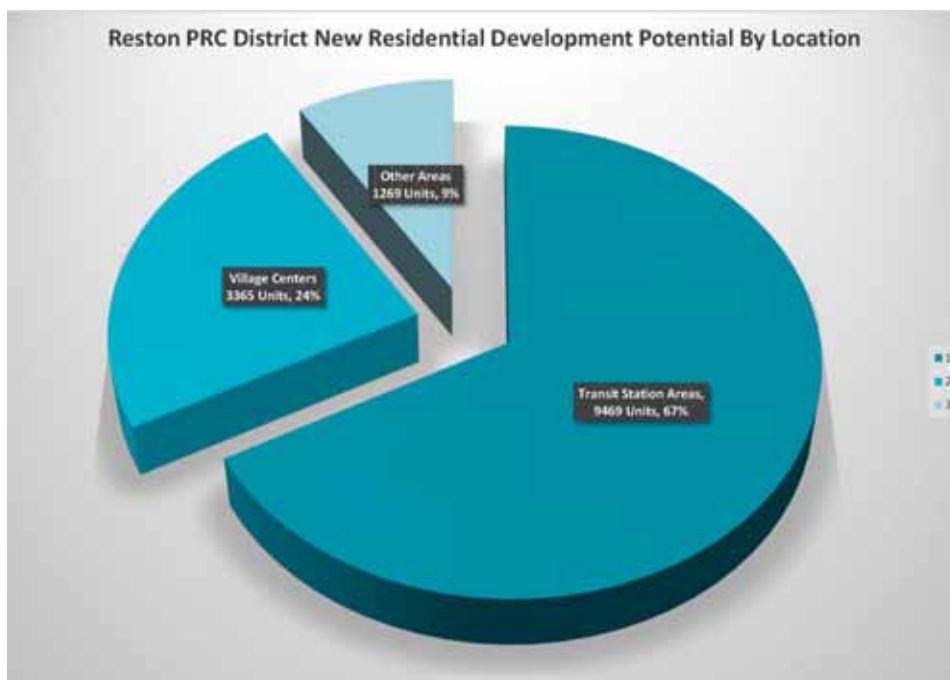
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The graph details development potential in Reston's Transit Station Areas, Village Centers and other areas.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PRC District Overall Persons per Acre (PPA) Increase Options.

Building Razed on Last Property Available in RTC's Urban Core

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Residential Density in Reston PRC District stalled.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Boston Properties is preparing to construct their next high-rise in Reston Town Center. Demolition is underway to clear a footprint for their new office and retail building to be constructed at 1750 Presidents Drive on Block 5, the last office property available in the urban core of Reston Town Center (RTC).

Boston Properties recently announced the Reston-based information technology contractor, Leidos would be the anchor-lease holder in the new rise designed for them by Shalom Baranes Associates.

The 17-story building will be located beside the other Boston Properties structure in Reston Town Center, The Signature, their

new 508-unit apartment building at 11850 Freedom Drive. The Signature includes an East and West Rise, North Lofts, Center Row, and on the ground floor its anchor, the gourmet market Balducci's complete with chef prepared food, catering, grocery delivery and wine and food events.

In late January, Leidos announced they are relocating workers from about 265,000 square feet of office space in three other buildings, two in Reston Town Center and a third on Roger Bacon Drive noting approximately 1,000 of their employees will work at the 1750 Presidents Drive building.

IN A SEPARATE ACTION, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors delayed the scheduling of the proposed Planned Residential Community (PRC) Zoning Ordinance

amendment, a change to raise Reston's population cap of 13 people per acre to 16 equaling a 23 percent increase that could add 18,737 more people to the population.

The Reston Master Plan would focus future growth in Village Centers, the Town Center, and Transit Station Areas.

The Board was expected to introduce the proposed zoning ordinance amendment to its agenda at their March 6, 2018 meeting. New dates for the previously scheduled three meetings about the Planned Residential Community Board Authorization Item, Planning Commission Public Hearing, and Board of Supervisors Public Hearing, have not yet been determined.

In regards to the proposed amendment, the Fairfax County Government website states, "Based on recommendations from a 40-member community task force, the Com-

prehensive Plan for Reston was updated in 2014 and 2015. The plan calls for future growth to be focused in the Town Center, the Village Centers, and the areas around the three Metro Stations. An update to the Zoning Ordinance is needed to implement the new plan, because some of its current provisions limit the growth of Reston by capping its population to 13 persons per acre. ..."

The proposal met with citizen outcry and opposition at two standing-room-only community meetings. Opponents claim if the ordinance were to be approved, it would cause an explosion of growth that current infrastructure could not handle. They argue the infrastructure must be in place first.

For more information about the PRC, visit fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/zoning-ordinance.

Best Of Reston Honorees Announced

Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce hosted a Celebration Reception on March 12, where 12 Finalists were announced for the 2018 Cornerstones of Our Community Best of Reston Awards, and then from among those finalists, seven selected honorees were revealed. The selected honorees will be celebrated at the 2018 Cornerstones of Our Community – Best of Reston Awards Gala on April 12 for giving of their time for the causes about which they are passionate, and in so doing making the community stronger.

Highlights of the Honorees can be found at www.cornerstonesva.org/BOR

"Coming together for this event affirms the Chamber's commitment to building a community that is not just a great place

to do business — but one which offers hope and opportunity to all who live, work, play and serve here," said Mark Ingrao, President and CEO of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. Leidos hosted the reception, where Melissa Koskovich, Senior Vice President, Communications and Marketing at Leidos, announced its commitment to Cornerstones as a Visionary Annual Partner, presenting Cornerstones with a \$50,000 check. "Leidos is among a very special group of organizations who have made a commitment to Cornerstones as Annual Partners, whose sustaining support helps us meet challenges in the community year-round," said Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones.

Cornerstones' Annual Partners, Best of Reston Sponsors and Capitol Steps Sponsors were also recognized for their commitment to Cornerstones' mission.

2018 Finalists and Honorees

- ❖ BEI
- ❖ The Bike Lane
- ❖ Marybeth Haneline – HONOREE
- ❖ Leslie Kane – HONOREE
- ❖ Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation – HONOREE
- ❖ Terry Redican – HONOREE
- ❖ Reston Swim Team Association
- ❖ Andy Sigle – HONOREE
- ❖ SOSi – HONOREE
- ❖ South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry

About Cornerstones of Our Community – Best of Reston Awards: Nearly three decades ago, Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce came together in a collaboration that demonstrates their mutual commitment to the Reston community's guiding principles established

by founder Robert E. Simon, and a shared philosophy that the collective contributions of individuals, businesses, civic and community institutions and organizations are necessary to build and sustain thriving and enriching communities. This partnership is celebrated each year in a community awards celebration. Seat and table reservations for the April 12 Awards Gala can be made online at www.cornerstonesva.org/BOR. Sponsorships are also available which help ensure Cornerstones' impact for those who are vulnerable, or hard-working families who are struggling but have so much to contribute to our community. For more information, visit www.cornerstonesva.org or call 571-323-9555. For more information about Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce visit www.RestonChamber.org or call 703-707-9045.

‘Nevertheless, She Persisted’

Commission for Women celebrates 2018 honorees at Women’s History Month reception.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

March is Women’s History Month, and the theme for this year’s celebrations is “Nevertheless, She Persisted,” referring to the now-famous phrase that was part of Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s rebuke of Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in February of 2017 after a party-line vote to stop Warren’s speech against the appointment of Sen. Jeff Sessions as the U.S. attorney general.

“Sen. Warren was giving a lengthy speech,” said McConnell at the time. “She had appeared to violate the rule[s]. She was warned ... nevertheless, she persisted.”

Since then, that phrase has become a rallying cry for women’s rights advocates and others around the world, and is a fitting description for the women chosen by the Fairfax County Commission for Women as their 2018 honorees, according to Michelle Mueller, the county’s liaison to the commission, who led the program at the commission’s reception on March 6 at the Government Center.

The women selected as this year’s recipients for recognition by the county “have exemplified that persistence,” said Mueller in her remarks, especially in their work to “fight all forms of discrimination against women.”

❖ **Sheila Coates**, a sixth generation Virginian, Coates has been “persisting” for over four decades. The founder and president of Black Women United for Action since its inception in 1985, Coates has served on the board of the National Council of Women’s Organizations and as a delegate to the National Summit on Africa. She successfully lobbied for a minority-at-large position to the Fairfax County Commission for Women, as well as for the appointment of an African American woman to the board at George Mason University — a first for the institution which she attended and where she studied public administration and political science. Coates continues her work, serving on a number of boards, panels and committees, and advising and educating on women’s rights issues.

❖ **Grace Wolf Cunningham** is serving her fourth term on the Herndon Town Council and is the first Korean American elected official in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Cunningham is an adviser to the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women’s Issues (WCCW). The group’s name comes from the euphemism given to the more than 200,000 women trafficked as sex slaves during World War II by the Japanese military as “comfort” for the fighting troops and was started to call for acknowledgement of, and reparation to these victims. In addition to their founding mission, today, WCCW continues to advocate for the rights of war-



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova; honorees Lidia Soto-Harmon, Laura Harris, Grace Cunningham, and Sheila Coates; Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins; and Michelle Mueller, county liaison to the Commission for Women at the Women’s History Month 2018 Reception.

time victims and is dedicated to the “eradication and prevention of sex crimes.” Cunningham was the driving force behind the installation of the “Peace Garden,” unveiled at the Government Center in 2014, as a memorial to those “Comfort Women” and as a reminder of the need to remain vigilant and continue to fight human trafficking.

❖ **Laura Harris** is another veteran in the fight against discrimination and as a champion for victims of domestic violence. Harris has worked for Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Services Unit for over 30 years and led the charge to bring county services and resources together in a coordinated response to domestic violence, instrumental in establishing the county Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council, as well as the

Domestic Action Center. Among her achievements, Harris also helped to start the volunteer “Attorney for the Day Program” which provides pro bono legal services to clients seeking protective orders in domestic violence situations, but who cannot afford attorneys or who face challenges understanding their rights and the legal system.

❖ **Lidia Soto-Harmon**, the CEO of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital, believes in developing and supporting future leaders, assuring that all young women have the opportunity to succeed. To that aim, Soto-Harmon works to make sure that no girl or volunteer is excluded from full participation in Girl Scouts because of financial difficulties. Adding to her resume of years of activism, Soto-Harmon currently serves as the governance chair for the Meyer

Foundation, an organization that “works on pursuing and investing in solutions that build an equitable Greater Washington community in which women of color and economically vulnerable thrive.”

Assisting Michelle Mueller in presenting certificates to the honorees were Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins. At the regular Board of Supervisors’ Meeting which followed the reception, Bulova presented a proclamation, accepted on behalf of the Commission for Women by Cunningham, declaring March 2018 as “Women’s History Month, and a time to honor all women who continue to fight and succeed in bringing positive change to the lives of diverse American Women.”

ACKNOWLEDGING THE WOMEN who sacrificed in the past to gain the opportunity for women of today to succeed, the reception also included a display of the planned Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, a garden-based memorial to be located within the Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton — once part of the prison grounds where women suffragists were incarcerated.

Executive Director of Turning Point Patricia Wirth was on hand to showcase the drawings of the memorial and remind attendees of the contributions of the women “who came before us.” Wirth says they still haven’t raised all the funds needed to build the national memorial, but declared that regardless of what phase of achievement has been reached by that time, “there’s going to be an unveiling event on Aug. 26, 2020.”

Cunningham vowed to “put pressure on my colleagues to donate to the fundraising efforts for the memorial. We are so fortunate to live in amazing Fairfax County,” said Cunningham, “where we have a woman as our Board of Supervisors chair, a woman chair for the public school board, mayors like Lisa Merkel of Herndon, women serving our area in the state legislature and so many more, unlike many other jurisdictions across our region and the country — and we wouldn’t have this opportunity without these women who sacrificed to get women the right to vote.”

For more about Women’s History Month and the Commission for Women, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association has a Facebook page and information on www.suffragistmemorial.org. A public Women’s History Month Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, March 17 from 1:30 – 4:40 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria. Those interested in attending can RSVP and purchase the \$7 tickets at www.womens-history-month-2018.eventbrite.com.

Spring 2018 HomeLifeStyle

The 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia includes tours of homes and gardens in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The featured historic home was once the Hunting Lodge for Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County is named, a privately owned home, beautifully preserved and not often open to the public, dating to the mid 1700s. One garden is designed like a quilt because the owner of this historic house is a world renown quilter. fairfax@vagardenweek.org for tickets. www.vagardenweek.org

Reston
CONNECTION

85th Virginia Historic Garden Week in April

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 24, 2018, as the Garden Club of Fairfax invites you to this year's Historic Garden Week Tour in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna.

Experience 250 years of history in the once agricultural hills of northern Fairfax County. Near the village of Great Falls is the William Gunnell home built in 1750 as a hunting lodge for Lord Fairfax. Stroll through a quilt garden designed by the current owner, a well-known quilter, and enjoy carefully tended fruit and vegetable gardens as well as landscaped vistas.

In the historic town of Vienna, explore an 1892 home built on the grounds of the Grange Camp and a charming cottage designed by a couple as a "sensible home" to retire-in- place.

A transitional executive home with a waterfall garden is showcased in McLean.

Tour headquarters are at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, where admission and refreshments are included with the tour ticket.

Access to William Gunnell House is only by shuttle bus. Pick-up and drop-off at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Tickets available at the Library. Advance Tickets: \$40 per person www.vagardenweek.org or by mail before April 17. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to The Garden Club of Fairfax to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. (703) 978-4130 or Fairfax@vagardenweek.org for questions. \$50 day of tour.

As part of the Garden Club of Virginia's 85th Historic Garden Week, this tour will be one of thirty statewide tours held April 21-28, 2018 featuring nearly 200 of Virginia's most picturesque gardens and private homes.

Proceeds from this celebrated event fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program, and a new partnership with the Virginia State Parks. Iconic landmarks such as Mount Vernon, the Pavilion Gardens at the University of Virginia and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library have been restored to their original splendor due to the hard work of thousands of volunteers, the generosity of countless home and garden owners, and the nearly 30,000 visitors from around the world who have enjoyed the tours.

For more information about our Great Falls-McLean- Vienna Tour, and to buy tickets online, go to www.vagardenweek.org. The statewide schedule for Historic Garden Week is also listed.

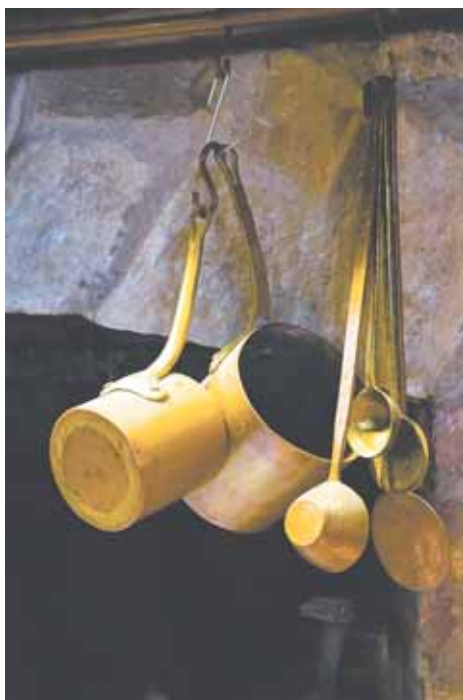
Tour Headquarters, Facilities and Special Activity: Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Tickets, maps and restrooms available on tour day.

There will be a free King's Park Flutes



The 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia includes tours of homes and gardens around Virginia, as well as in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The featured historic home was once the Hunting Lodge for Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County is named, a privately owned home, beautifully preserved and not often open to the public, dating to the mid 1700s. This garden is designed like a quilt because the owner of this historic house is a world renown quilter. fairfax@vagardenweek.org for tickets. www.vagardenweek.org

PHOTOS BY DONNA MOULTON/GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX



Details from the William Gunnell home in Great Falls built in 1750 as a hunting lodge for Lord Fairfax.



Concert 10 to noon. Tour tickets: \$50 per person available on tour day at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and at tour homes.

WILLIAM GUNNELL HOUSE, Innsbruck Avenue, Great Falls The original home is a hall-and-parlor structure built in 1750 on 12,588 acres owned by Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax, for whom the county is named. William Gunnell III (1750-1820), first known resident of the home and believed to have been caretaker for Lord Fairfax,

purchased it in 1791 and constructed an addition for his large family, making it one of the area's grandest manor homes with a 1,500-acre plantation and numerous outbuildings. One outbuilding, c.1770, survives today. The home was in the Gunnell family until 1913. Twentieth century additions are unobtrusive and compatible with the home's 18th century Colonial and post-Revolution styles. In 1934 a log cabin tavern was moved here from Ruby, Virginia, to become a dining room with a massive stone fireplace at

one end. The now 10-acre property includes a large farm pond, Virginia's fifth oldest measured hemlock, boxwood lined paths, flower, fruit, vegetable and herb gardens, and grape and rose arbors. The homeowner, a world-renowned quilter and fabric designer, designed the property's quilt garden, best viewed from a large vine-covered pergola. The star pattern quilt bedspread design in the master bedroom is repeated in a leaded glass panel in the master bath, in a wrought iron railing and in the quilt garden. National Register of Historic Places. Accessible only by shuttle bus. Jinny and John Beyer, owners.

MONTVALE WAY, McLEAN Located within a 255-acre wooded community of 166 homes in McLean, known as "The Reserve," this two-level executive style home was built in 2001 by one of the premiere builders in Northern Virginia. An exterior of bisque and gray brick construction is framed by stone pillars and enhanced by a paved circular drive. Mature trees, grasses and a massing of bulbs, perennials and shrubs provide four seasons of interest. An armored soldier stands guard, injecting a whimsical tone. Warm tones of beige and brown and faux-painted walls on the first floor act as a backdrop for the mix of old and new in art, furniture and family treasures. A sunroom is the perfect spot to enjoy the backyard koi pond and extensive landscaping designed and implemented by the homeowners. Sandra and Robert Varney, owners

THE GRANGE CAMP, Redwood Drive, Vienna The exterior front of this Folk Victorian home with a Federalist front porch is essentially unchanged from its 1892 appearance. Alexander Wedderburn, a successful printer and publisher in Alexandria, purchased the property and built a summer home on 42 acres previously owned by the post-Civil War Grange movement and used for annual summer fairs for farmers and their families. Original windows and interior doors are displayed as pieces of art and original wood molding was salvaged to become paneling in the powder room. A schoolhouse chair and piano are from Ms. Dyer's mother's school in Connecticut. Her father, a furniture maker and refinisher, refurbished the piano, a Singer sewing table and other pieces. Mature trees provide shade and privacy to enjoy an array of flowering shrubs and specimen trees on the 1.7 acre property. Bob Smith and Alison Dyer, owners.

CENTER STREET NORTH, Vienna From drawing board to completion, the homeowners envisioned a "sensible" home allowing for present-day living and entertaining within an open floor plan, and the flexibility of converting the current den to an additional first floor bedroom and bath for aging in place for this custom built, 2011

SEE HISTORIC GARDEN, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Features that Function

Designer must-haves for building a dream kitchen.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From a Sub Zero refrigerator and Bosch dishwasher hidden behind an oak cabinet front to a backsplash and center island covered with slabs of marble, the options for creating a dream kitchen can seem endless, say local designers, but they are also very personal.

"A seldom used \$15,000 La Cornue stove which might impress friends may define one person's idea of a dream kitchen, while the definition of a dream kitchen for another person might include a more practical approach to form and function," said interior designer Joseph Van Goethem. "For example, my wife is an excellent cook, so her dream kitchen is all about spices, dishes and cookbooks."

Hand-painted Italian tile used for the backsplash was one of the luxuries that Van Goethem incorporated into the design of his own kitchen in McLean. "It infuses the kitchen with color and visual interest beneath the cabinetry."

For counters toppings, quartz and butcher block are two materials that interior designer Carolyn Elleman says are at the top of her list. Strong and durable, butcher block is made by connecting long wooden boards. Maple and cherry wood are two of the most popular

materials for such countertops.

"As natural stone or granite seems to be not used as much, we have seen a spike in the use of quartz and butcher block," said Elleman, who is an interiors specialist at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc.

A versatile island is a kitchen must-have for Jean P. Freeman, professor of interior design at Marymount University.

"The real rave right now in kitchens is something that I introduced to the Pedini [kitchen design firm] eight years ago while designing my own sustainable house in McLean, Va.," she said. "It was to have an island with most of the essentials located on it. The idea of having an island with a sink, dishwasher, cook-top and plenty of storage below has been taken by storm."

Such a design technique reduces the need for overhead cabinetry, advises Freeman. "The island idea uses cabinets with only pull-out drawers for dishes, glasses, pots and pans. The drawers are so convenient and easy to organize," she said.

Features that improve functionality top the must-haves list of designer Melissa Fielding of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths.

"I love tray dividers. They can really revolutionize the kitchen because you can maximize the space for your cook and serve

ware," she said. "Another one of my highly recommended items are kitchen drawers because things like that favorite mixing bowl or large pan, come towards you instead of having to reach up to get them."

Keeping trash out of sight is a top priority for Fielding.

"One item that I really feel is a must-have is a waste bin drawer," she said. "Otherwise you have this beautiful kitchen and then you have a wastebasket as an eyesore. With a waste bin drawer near your prep area, you can put in items like onion skin as you're cooking rather than having to walk across the kitchen. They allow a kitchen to be beautiful and functional."

Steam-convection ovens and showpiece ranges that are ornate enough to become the focal point of the kitchen are two desirable kitchen features, suggests Michael Winn of Winn Design + Build. "Steam-convection ovens are a great way to cook," he said. "These are functioning as a second, or even primary, ovens and even replacing microwaves."

Wynn also believes in relocating electrical outlets from a kitchen's backsplash to an area under the cabinetry to create a seamless and clean appearance. "This is especially the case with the popularity of slab backsplashes [that is] continuing the counter up the backsplash," he said.

Gardens

modern Cape Cod cottage in historic Vienna. As the owner of REfind, a Vienna boutique, the homeowner mixes vintage with fresh accessories throughout.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS: We estimate that over 2,300 fabulous arrangements, using greenery and flowers grown in members' own gardens, will decorate the featured homes on this year's tours.

Great Falls, McLean, Vienna House & Garden Tour

Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 10-4 p.m.
Hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax,
Contact: Garden Club of Fairfax
fairfax@vagardenweek.org for tickets.
www.vagardenweek.org



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A Stitch In Time

With the children out of the nest, Shafer Dobry is re-embracing her passion for fiber arts in a basement studio.

BY JOHN BYRD

Nothing inspires renewed hobbying interests like children leaving the house. Parents — affectionately dubbed “empty-nesters” by demographers — are now left to their own devices, and there’s new square footage to conjure with. Maturity being a precious commodity, one doesn’t dawdle.

Certainly Shafer Dobry of Herndon ascribes to this theory. An artist who has worked with fibers since college, Dobry had maintained a basement space for her sewing projects for years, even selling her work online and at crafts shows. It was workable space, but shared with accumulated oddments, a designated TV-viewing zone and clutter.

When a son moved out last year though, Dobry seized the day: a chance to convert the 620-square-foot basement into a productive artist’s studio with dedicated workstations devoted to key phases in a sequential process, and a library of fabrics, threads and yarns filed for easy access.

To this end, Dobry called in Dory Clemens, a designer at Foster Remodeling Solutions, whom she had met at a home show. Approaching the studio makeover proposition, Clemens was intrigued by the question of exactly what is entailed in custom-designing a fiber arts studio.

“There are essential pieces of equipment that require a dedicated workstation,” Clemens said. “But Shafer has her own techniques regarding which phases are to be hands-on and which aren’t. I soon realized there wasn’t a patented tool for every task. Fiber art is something of a folk art ... where technique follows inspiration.”

That’s when Clemens saw that Foster’s skilled carpenters might prove handy in helping her client take her process to the next level.

“We would discuss how she worked,” Clemens said, “and I would suggest built-ins our carpenters could create that might advance her process.”

Chief among these is a cutting table which now occupies a back corner of the room.

Three feet high and with a top that measures 8 feet by 1 foot, the work table has been designed as a modular platform that provides the waist-high flat surface needed



Fiber artist Shafer Dobry (left), with an assist from Dory Clemens of Foster Remodeling, demonstrates how her new custom-designed work table is used for cutting fabric. Dobry hired Clemens last year to help convert basement space into a fiber arts studio



Shafer Dobry at her antique Ashford spinning wheel converting wool into yarn.

for cutting fabric, and for assembling the combinations that might be employed in the final art piece.

There are three panels — each with a 2-foot by 2.5-foot surface. Panels can be raised independently, or linked together as a three-part unit for cutting larger pieces. Pipes and hooks keep the table solid and unified. The base also provides shelving for storing bolts of fabric. When the cutting is over, the panels can be folded down to form a sliding door on an otherwise nondescript credenza.

As a space plan, the room has been zoned to support the two primary phases of Shafer’s creative process.

A 10-foot by 10-foot work cubicle formed by U-shaped laminate counter-surfaces and situated on LVP (Luxury Vinyl Plank) floor-

ing is set up to facilitate sewing and knitting. An ergonomic office chair on casters allows Shafer to roll from sewing machine to knitting machine, retrieving threads and yarns at will, and scrutinizing fabric bolts ... all without standing.

Old mattress springs (“found objects,” as Shafer calls them) mounted on the two walls offer buttons, threads, curiosities, notions into the artist’s hands. Meanwhile, overhead task lighting provides the illumination needed for close-in work.

In an adjacent space one finds tools of the knitting trade, many of which are antiques. There’s an Ashford spinning wheel; a six-spoke yarn “winder” (also an antique); several support spinners; and an umbrella swift.

Shafer says she is in the studio daily and that the environment is conducive to producing her art which she mostly sells online at www.etsy.com/shop/needleclicksEtc.

The former basement interior, with English pub finishes, has disappeared without a trace.

“There was a dropped-ceiling before, which made the room feel smaller,” Shafer says “Dory was essential in helping us pursue non-traditional design ideas. Removing the ceiling, for instance, raised the height of the room about a foot. That’s then I saw the potentials for more industrial ambiance — much like one sees in more urban art studios.”

As interior design process got underway, Clemens suggested painting the exposed rafters and duct work mat black. The perimeter walls are Grey Screen. Combined with the lighter-tone flooring, the effect is restful.

Shafer and her husband Michael also use the re-designed space to work out on their rowing machine, practice yoga, and enjoy music and video in a comfortable part of the room devoted to home entertainment.

“This really brings a lot of useful interests into one place,” Dobry said. “It’s a real lifestyle boost for both of us.”

Foster Remodeling Solutions will be sponsoring a seminar March 7 at 10 a.m. titled “Big Impact, Small Space.” The event will be held at its offices and showroom in Lorton. For information call 703-550-1371 or sign up now at www.fosterremodeling.com/remodeling-resources/seminars-and-sign-up/.

An open house of an Arlington home recently remodeled by Foster Remodeling Solutions will be held on March 24. Call for details and to register.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

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.
“Godspell.” Thursdays through Sundays, through April 1, at NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop opens “Godspell” with a modern twist to the musical, setting the new production in a coffee shop. Tickets, \$35-\$65, available online at www.NextStopTheatre.org or by calling 866-811-4111.

Exhibit: Reston Student Artists. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza and RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road. Nine Reston schools have created an art exhibit featuring work by students in kindergarten through eighth grade in a variety of mediums, including watercolor, chalk and oil pastels. Works by students from Aldrin, Armstrong, Dogwood, Forest Edge, Hunters Woods, Lake Anne, Terraset and Sunrise Valley Elementary Schools will be on display at RCC Lake Anne through April 2 in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery and 3D Gallery. Student ceramic and other three-dimensional pieces will be on display in RCC Lake Anne’s 3D gallery through mid-April. This year’s exhibits also include works from Langston Hughes Middle School students at RCC Hunters Woods through March 31. Call 703-390-6175 or email Cheri.Danaher@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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.

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 for more.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

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 Reston’s CenterStage

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. 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.

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. As the hot summer evening unfolds, painful secrets and desperate longings are revealed while the family desperately attempts to secure their share of Big Daddy’s estate. Don’t miss this intense drama that sizzles with passion and greed like you’ve never experienced before. \$20-\$23. Visit restonplayers.org or call 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

Origami Community Project. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. In conjunction with The Growing Kids Therapy Group, ArtSpace Herndon will host a day of folding a thousand origami cranes. Come make a wish and fold a crane. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/new-events/2018/3/17/origami-community-project.

“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. For free tickets (limit of four; first come, first served), contact William.parker@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Book Discussion. 4 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. L. M. Elliott will discuss her new book Hamilton and

Peggy: A Revolutionary Friendship. Visit scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

St. Patrick’s Homeless Shelter Meal. 4-7 p.m. at Embury Rucker Shelter, 11975 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Volunteers needed to help prepare and serve a St. Patrick’s Day themed dinner for over 100 people at the 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/.

Quebec Street Jazz. 7-10 p.m. at Cafe Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Not a fan of Irish folk songs? The Quebec Street Jazz Band will perform jazz standards on St. Patrick’s Day. \$10 at the door. Call 703-904-8080 or visit cafemontmartre.com/entertainmentevents.html.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

Music is Magic. 4-5:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colt’s Neck Road, Reston. Join the Reston Community Orchestra for a family concert spotlighting a young violinist, George Pekarsky; a pre-concert performance by the Hunters Woods Elementary String Ensemble; an Instrument Petting Zoo; and refreshments. Free. Email rcomanager.la@gmail.com for more.

Concert. 7-8 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The Herndon Regional Wind Ensemble, composed of local musicians, presents its spring concert, including works by such composers as Malcolm Arnold, Alfred Reed, and Karl King. Free. Visit herndonregionalwindensemble.com.



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News

Reston Schools Celebrate National Youth Art Month

**Student artwork
exhibited at
Reston and
Hunters Woods
Community
Centers.**

By **MERCIA HOBSON**
THE CONNECTION

Eight Reston elementary schools and one middle school created special exhibits of selected student artwork in support of National Youth Art Month, a celebration of the visual arts during the month of March which emphasizes the value of art education, encourages support for quality school art programs and promotes art material safety.

The younger children's artwork is installed in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery and Three-Dimensional Gallery at Reston Community Center Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. The exhibits run through April 2 and showcase original paintings, sketches, printmaking and more created by Reston elementary-aged students from Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, Dogwood, Hunters Woods, Forest Edge, Lake Anne, Sunrise Valley and Terraset schools.

Selected artwork by students from Langston Hughes Middle School is on display at the Reston Community Center Hunter Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston through March 31.

"This is my absolute favorite time in our exhibition schedule," said Cheri Danaher, Arts Education



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Gabriel de Moraes, 8, a second-grader at Dogwood Elementary gets a lift up by big brother Igor so he can point out his collage selected for exhibition at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center Lake Anne held in celebration of National Youth Art Month.

Maeve E. Patterson, 6, is a kindergartener at Forest Edge Elementary School. Patterson explained she used Styrofoam and a pencil to carve various autumn-themed stamps then applied white paint to them and printed her designs.

Director Reston Community Center. "We are able to celebrate the work of our students and the importance of art education in our schools and community at large."

On Sunday, March 11, an Opening Reception was held to honor the young artists whose works are featured at the Reston Community Center. Present at the opening was Abigail Gordon, 7, a second grader at Dogwood Elementary School. Gordon showed off her unique artwork, vibrant colored swirling cut-outs of construction paper, patterns balanced and pleasing to the eye. Gordon said, "I made this because artist (Friedensreich) Hundertwasser made swirling art too."

Gabriel de Moraes, 8, is in sec-

ond grade. He recently arrived in Reston from Brazil.

Too short to reach his exhibited artwork selected for installation, his big brother, Igor gladly hoisted him up for a photograph. He too had been inspired by Hundertwasser and created a distinct work of art.

Maeve E. Patterson, 6, a kindergartener at Forest Edge Elementary School explained how she created her original white on purple painting. "It is a print with trees, acorns, mushroom, and wind in the fall." She said, "We used a piece of Styrofoam, carved out the design with pencil, and printed it."

For more information about the exhibits visit, www.restoncommunitycenter.com



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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.

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.

PTA Member Advocacy Event. 7-9 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fairfax County Council of PTAs hosts an advocacy event with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to discuss how the FY2019 county advertised budget impacts students, teachers, school leaders, school support staff, schools, and families. Visit fccpta.org.

THURSDAYS/MARCH 15-APRIL 12

Caregivers of Older Adults. 1-3 p.m. at Sunrise Assisted Living of Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Fairfax County offers a free program providing support and education to caregivers of older adults. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Caring for You, Caring for Me Program. Call 703-324-7577 or 703-324-7210, TTY 711.

MONDAY/MARCH 19

Paving and Restriping Meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Terraset Elementary School Cafeteria, 11411 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. 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 in an open house format, with a presentation at 7:15 p.m. The Hunter Mill District information page, located at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping/hunter-mill, includes comment submission form.

TUESDAY/MARCH 20

Tax Relief Workshops. 10 a.m.-noon at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The Department of Taxation will be available to meet with residents regarding the County's tax relief program for senior and disabled residents at the above community meetings on the budget. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief.

Boys Girls Lacrosse Registration. Herndon Reston Youth Lacrosse (HRYL): 2018 boys and girls spring lacrosse early registration is open. Base cost: \$195; early bird discount: \$30 through Jan. 20. New players welcome, accepting all youth ages. Visit hrylax.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 21

Scholarship Deadline. noon. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is in search of high-achieving 7th grade students to apply for a five-year, pre-college scholarship. Email scholarships@jkcf.org or call 800-941-3300.

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"Introspections"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

According to my oncologist, it's time, way past time in fact (not so much 'fact,' more like his experiences with other cancer patients) that I make more significant changes in my cancer treatment than I have diagnosis to date. What he means, specifically – and what we regularly discuss – is extending the interval of my CT Scan, which currently occurs every three months.

Not so much to minimize the radiation exposure, more so due to my continuing survival. No one's ready to characterize me as "N.E.D.," (no evidence of disease), but neither does it appear, based on the last five years – since I was hospitalized and began my alimta infusions, that my tumors are growing and/or moving; at least not as indicated with any clinical significance.

Nevertheless, the prospect of waiting longer to find out if any tumor action has occurred is unsettling. Currently, given that I am generally asymptomatic, the primary way that I learn if there's been "progression," is by the computerized tomography of my lungs/upper torso. Rarely have symptoms manifested themselves otherwise. And when they have, they've as often indicated nothing as something – and vice versa; meaning, sometimes no symptoms still showed growth. So it's confusing, counter intuitive and contraindicated, and I'm stuck in the middle.

While maintaining this quarterly scan schedule, I have extended the interval between infusions however: from every three weeks originally to every six weeks now. Which means I've reduced the amount of chemotherapy I receive by 50 percent per quarter. Still the scans have showed "stable." Given that I'm starting my 10th year post diagnosis, perhaps it's time to scan less and live more?

Our concern has been that if the CT Scan continues to be the first real indicator/confirmation that tumor growth has occurred – and if so, presumably different/more aggressive/life-sustaining tactics would need to be employed (immunotherapy comes to print, which I have not yet utilized), why wait through the fourth month to find out? Maybe that month's-long delay in scanning would matter in possibly nipping my tumor growth in the bud?

My oncologist's thinking is that so little change has occurred during the past five years that perhaps it's reasonable to take advantage of my amazing good fortune and extend the interval?

Moreover, with respect to my quality of life, reducing the weeks of stress we experience leading up to the scan, and of course the stress the week after, waiting for results, would enhance our lives; and eliminating that stress and improving the quality of our lives has always been an interest/concern of my oncologist.

And I appreciate his concern for our overall well being; and I would like to have less cancer-related impact on my life but, yes, there's always a 'but.' If I extend the scan interval, I might worry about what's happening in my lungs during the month after I would have already been scanned? What if? I mean, it's not as if we can't go back in time, sort of. We can always restart, re-interval, re-scan, re-everything; so I've been reassured. Why not re-engage more with life and rearrange less because of cancer?

Maybe I've survived nine-plus years with a terminal form of cancer because I'm meant to? Why not leverage my many good results and better manage my cancer commitments? Perhaps it's time to take control of my life and live like I'm not dying? Heck, I've done alright so far. Who's to say I can't do better?

If my oncologist characterizes me as his third miracle, then maybe I should start living more miraculously?

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

OPINION

Until Another Day

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

The Virginia Constitution provides that in the even-numbered years the General Assembly is to meet in session for 60 days and in the odd-numbered years for 45 days. Either may be extended by half the number of days with a two-thirds vote by the membership. The reason for the longer session in even-numbered years was the additional responsibility of passing a biennial budget. Yet on

COMMENTARY

S a t u r d a y, March 10, the General Assembly adjourned *sine die* (meaning with no appointed date for resumption) without having passed a budget for the next biennium! The budget under which the Commonwealth is currently operating does not expire until June 30, 2018. The Governor is empowered to call a special session of the legislature,

and he has indicated his expectation in the near future to call such a special session whose business would be limited to passage of a budget.

Members of the House and Senate understood that would be the procedure to be followed when they voted to adjourn the regular session.

There is good news in all this procedural action to bring the legislature to an end for the year. The budgets of the two houses could not be reconciled by the constitutional deadline because of one great and meaningful difference: extending Medicaid to many more persons of limited income. The really good news is that Medicaid expansion is being discussed in a positive context, and I am certain it is going to take place in Virginia within the year.

A total of about 2,500 bills and



resolutions have been considered during the last 60 days. Of those, fewer than a thousand will make their way to the Governor for his signature.

When duplicate bills are counted once, the total production of the Gen-

eral Assembly will be close to 500 new laws. While that small number may seem like limited production for such great effort, some of the bills introduced are really not good ideas. It is just as important that the legislature defeat bad bills as it is for the legislature to pass good bills.

This session was noteworthy for its lack of bills limiting women's reproductive rights and bills that would discriminate against persons for their sexual orientation or identity.

Much of that change can be attributed to the defeat of one in-

cumbent delegate who specialized in such bills but also to the great number of defeats of incumbent legislators who voted for them.

There were 70 bills introduced relating to ending gun violence, and all were defeated in a six-person subcommittee. Recent public outrage over gun violence is likely to change that dynamic in the future.

Good news for Metro was the passage of a bill to put Virginia's contribution to the system on sound financial footing with a dedicated source of funding from the Commonwealth.

Maryland and the District of Columbia are expected to take similar action.

A major victory for environmentalists was the passage of the Governor's bill to expand the use of renewables in electricity generation, modernization of the electrical grid, and expansion of energy conservation. More to come on the work of the session in future columns.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping Kids Safe

To the Editor:

Thank you for your excellent work, Connection! I was happy to see approximately half of the March 7-13 issue of the Oak Hill / Herndon Connection devoted to the conversation on keeping kids safe from shootings. A law to restrict purchasing of guns to one per month only was passed in

1993 in Virginia, and then repealed in 2013. Statistics about gun violence at the time showed that having that particular law on the books prevented so much tragedy. Statistics show that gun violence went back up when the law was repealed; gun traffickers take advantage of Virginia's weaker gun laws and illegally traffic guns

to other states. I did a small amount of research on the one-handgun a month law, and I understand it was repealed, but this legislation needs to be revisited.

I was also surprised to learn about Virginia Law SB 288 - a common sense law that was going to require citizens who legally own guns to report if their gun was sto-

len or transferred. This law failed in committee and was never voted on. It's a common sense gun law, I can't understand how something so simple could not even go to a vote in the Senate? We need to enact common-sense laws that protect our nation's children.

Jodi Beatty
Herndon

Costs and Benefits of Arming the Teachers

To the Editor:

The lead editorial by Monte F. Bourjaily, IV ("No Guns in the Classroom," Connection March 7-13, 2018) warns of many ills that would attend the arming of school personnel. Whether that is a good idea or not, it bears consideration that hundreds of U.S. school districts have done so for some years,

apparently without untoward consequence (at least so far), as detailed by a recent New York Times news article (available at <http://nyti.ms/2oLEem0>). That experience should not be overlooked in forming a necessarily probabilistic judgment as to whether the benefits (such as more rapid response to active shooters and gen-

eral deterrence) are likely to outweigh the costs (such as the potential for accidental shootings and general unease).

As for the supposed "gag rule," the Dickey Amendment does not prohibit research into the effects of gun violence, only CDC advocacy for gun control, reading in relevant part: "none of the funds

made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may be used to advocate or promote gun control" (available at <http://bit.ly/22zCqKD>, pdf page 245).

Griselda Farthing
Great Falls

Medicaid Expansion Important to all Virginians

To the Editor:

Mary Kimm got it so right in the Feb. 28 editorial that clearly laid out many important - some would say critical - reasons for expanding Medicaid in Virginia ("Hope for Expanding Health Care"). I want to add a few more points that folks should consider at this critical moment when state senators' decisions yea or nay will soon be made in Richmond.

We need to let state senators

know where we stand, and here is why.

Do you think Medicaid funding only applies to 'other people' or people who some might not see as a priority for government help? The truth is it is helping people with disabilities and pregnant women seeking the care necessary to have healthy babies. What's more, Medicaid funds a huge number of births. And if you think it doesn't touch the middle class,

consider the number of elderly people, who have to spend down all assets and become destitute, or close to destitute, and still need nursing home care.

The other huge reality is that someone pays for all the care given to people who are underinsured or uninsured. That someone is all of us. Hospitals don't turn away sick people because they can't pay. We all pay more to help cover those costs. People are sicker more fre-

quently without good medical help, and we pay by higher costs.

Senator Jennifer Wexton has been working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle trying to make Medicaid expansion happen here. Keep it up, Senator Wexton. The over 80 percent of Virginians who want Medicaid expansion need to help you by making our voices be heard in Richmond.

Nancy Hopkins
Vienna

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