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Reston CONNECTION

Amber Yin was more than happy to sit beside the Easter Bunny after Easter Services Sunday morning at Restoration Church, the Reston campus of Floris United Methodist Church.

More Than Candy-filled Eggs

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Reston Association Passes
Stronger Internal Controls

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Reston, a Tree
City, Plants More

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SENIOR LIVING

PAGE 2

Senior Living

Never Too Early to Prepare for Senior Olympics

**New this year:
canasta, croquet and
beach ball wallyball.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

It may seem like a long time until September when the 36th year of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) kicks off.

But not for 83-year-old Chuck Toftoy from Arlington, who often enters 20 events, and says he practices all year long.

Opening ceremonies for this year's events are scheduled for Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington, and the competition is scheduled to end on Sept. 26.

The NVSO began in 1982 with about 80 people competing; last year there were 752 competitors signed up for one or more of the 70 events offered. The events ranged from tennis, baseball throw, bocce, orienteering, swimming and diving, golf, corn hole toss, volleyball, and pickleball.

Three new sports have been added to the competition this year including canasta, croquet and beach ball wallyball. Herb



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics includes bocce competition.

Levitan, a member of the NVSO Board, explains beach ball wallyball is like volleyball but played on a racquetball court with a beachball which is bigger and softer than a volleyball. Levitan is currently preparing for

the Virginia senior games coming up soon where he swims four freestyle events.

Alease Brooks, 85, has been competing for 14 years and participated in 13 different sports in 2017. But her favorite is

pickleball. Her children have bought her T-shirts in different colors for her games and often come to watch her and cheer her on.

Toftoy says this year he plans to reduce the number of sports he enters so that he can concentrate on pickleball since he plans to enter singles, doubles and mixed competition this year.

Last year, 93-year old Henry Colette from Oakton was one of 19 bocce competitors. But for the last several years he has been guaranteed a win because there was no one else in his age group competing.

Last year's oldest competitor was 101 years old with her sport of choice was duplicate bridge.

Seniors participate for many reasons — some because they like to stay busy and fit, others because they are returning to a high school or college sport, some because they like the community of friends they see every year and others because they still “like to dream big.”

This year's games are expected to be held in 29 venues including community centers, parks, high schools and other locations across Northern Virginia. Registration for this year's NVSO will open June 1. This year NVSO is hoping to bring back the 5k run and looking for an event director for that event. Those interested in volunteering can call 703-403-5360.

Seniors Calendar

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

Coffee Social at Tallwood. at 10 a.m. at Tallwood Campus, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Welcome new members, make new friends and kick-off spring term in Fairfax with coffee, refreshments and friendly conversation. The event will include a quick presentation. For more information or to register, visit bit.ly/2H8AZy1 (Special Event 1304).

FRIDAY & MONDAY/APRIL 6 & 9

AARP Smart Drivers Classes. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. A refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. \$15 AARP members, \$20 for non-members payable on the first day of class. Visit www.scov.org/files/2018_04_aarp_smart_driver_flyer.pdf. Call instructor David Young to register at 703-591-1847.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Caregiver Bootcamp. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join IMCC for a special day-long training event covering essential caregiving topics. Contact Lindsey Vajpeyi, lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org, 703-204-4664 or visit InsightMCC.org.

Living with Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 10 a.m.-noon at Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Part one of three-part series. Join the Alzheimer's Association for this free three-part series and hear caregivers and professionals discuss strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. For more information and to register, call 800-272-3900. Other dates as well.

MONDAYS/APRIL 9-MAY 14

Adventures 'N Learning. 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Join the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax every Monday for 6 weeks. Start with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal

development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge or canasta. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. Register at 703-426-2824, or visit www.scfbva.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Dementia Caregiver Support Groups. Noon-1:30 p.m. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 12

Adventures in Learning Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at UUCF, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Bounce into Spring with a new revved up brain. Cost is \$45. Classes begin April 19-June 14 (no class May 3). Visit www.scov.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Community Shredding Event. 8 a.m.-noon at I-95 Landfill, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton. Shred event is open to Fairfax County residents. Documents from businesses will not be accepted. All cars must be in line by noon. Residents will be asked to remain in their vehicles. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/secure-document-shredding-event.

TUESDAY/APRIL 17

Joy Of Living for Seniors. 11 a.m.-noon at St Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. As part of an ongoing series, St Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon, will hold a presentation about Israel/Palestine and the Two State Solution, followed by a light lunch. Donation offerings for lunch accepted. RSVP to jgdops@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

Community Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike A, Great Falls. The Great Falls Civic Association Land Use & Zoning Committee discuss a new senior care facility on Walker Road in Great Falls proposed by Verity Commercial and IntegraCare. Visit gfca.org.

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Reston Association Passes Stronger Internal Controls

StoneTurn Group, LLP urged RA to adopt similar policies a year ago.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At the March 23, 2018 meeting of the Reston Association (RA) Board of Directors, the board approved two actions for stronger internal controls, a new whistleblowers policy and a revised purchasing and procurement resolution. The approved actions are very similar to proposed recommendations put forth by the StoneTurn Group LLP, engaged by RA over a year ago to, as STG cited in their review, “assist in a review of the processes and internal controls that were followed by the Association related to the purchase and the renovation of the Tetra/Lake House (Tetra, the Property Acquisition) Project.”

RA’s newly adopted revised and expanded whistleblower policy allows employees, contractors, and vendors to report “any violation of the law or the association’s deed, bylaws and policies or improper conduct directly to the board, including using an anonymous reporting mechanism managed by an independent third-party service provider.”

The revised procurement and purchasing resolution approved by the RA board requires the board “to review and approve all contracts and agreements with expenditures of over \$24,999.” RA Board Treasurer, Sridhar Ganesan, said, “RA typically enters into between 25 and 30 contracts or master service agreements with a total value of over \$24,999 in a year.”

RA REPORTED that the CFO and CEO



A review of the processes and internal controls that were followed by Reston Association related to the purchase and the renovation of the Tetra/Lake House at 11450 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston prompted two recent board approved actions for tighter internal controls.

remain the final approvers for procurements below the \$24,999 level once the board has approved the budget for such expenditure. Previously, according to the StoneTurn Group report, once the board approved a project’s budget, the information on “bidding, procurement as well as the contract documents were not required to be provided.”

RA Board President Sherri Hebert said,

“The new whistleblower policy supports the procurement and purchasing resolution as well as policies and procedures that have been established to strengthen RA’s operations.”

The StoneTurn Group, LLP review was related to the \$2.65 million purchase of the Tetra/Lake House building and its 3.47-acre property located at 11450 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston, its interior and exterior

renovations, rental and programming plan, and developer contributions. StoneTurn Group also reviewed multiple uses of executive sessions during the purchase and renovation period, processes for capital expenditures and the voting and referendum processes pertinent to the Tetra property.

Looking at the StoneTurn Group review for possible enhancements to the RA board, the group found that there were “no written internal control policies and corresponding processes for the Association staff to rely upon as they went through the transaction.”

The report cited, “The internal control processes, including those for Conflict of Interest tracking, procurement, and invoice payment, among others, are not sufficiently robust to ensure compliance with the Association policies and our analysis has found multiple instances of required documentation not being maintained.”

The report added: “The internal control processes of the Association are not sufficient to account for funds when they are contracted or encumbered, but instead track expenditures only as they are paid...”

The board actions for tighter internal controls came on the heels of last month’s announcement that its CEO, Catherine (Cate) Fulkerson would not be continuing with the Association past the end of her current employment agreement but instead would be moved into a “special adviser role for the association as of March 1, 2018.” Fulkerson’s employment contract is due to expire on Oct. 31, 2018. The day after the announcement, the board selected its CFO, Robert Wood to serve as acting CEO.

SEE TRANSPARENCY, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

‘Collect for Kids’ Seeks Help

Donations and help from organizations is requested.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools announced their community partners are preparing for the 2018 “Collect for Kids” school supplies and backpacks drive for students in Fairfax County Public Schools. In 2017, the drive helped more than 39,000 of the 55,000 students who receive free or reduced-price meals in Fairfax County Schools. The goal for 2018 is to provide 40,000 of these children and youth with school supplies and backpacks. “Collect for Kids” is seeking monetary contributions and help from organizations. Their online donation form states: “100 percent of your donation will be allocated for school supplies

for FCPS students in need.” Even though a robust and connected group of partners make “Collect for Kids” work, the organization is also seeking help from new organizations to support their effort. Currently, more than 20 businesses, government agencies and community organization work together on the campaign, among them Apple Federal Credit Union, Britepaths, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, Cornerstones, and Kids R First.

According to “Collect for Kids,” “Every school in Fairfax County is touched by need. Some schools have as few as 1 percent of students living in poverty and some schools have over 90 percent of students living in poverty.”

In the Oak Hill/ Herndon area, supporting partners of “Collect for Kids” serve students at Coates, Dranesville, Herndon, Floris and Hutchison Elementary Schools, Herndon and Rachel Carson Middle Schools, and Herndon High School.

For more information on how to donate or help with the effort visit collectforkids.org.



The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools announced their community partners are getting ready for the 2018 “Collect for Kids” school supplies and backpack drive as they seek monetary donations and help from organizations.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

From left, Starbucks volunteers Jessica Jacobs, Jessie Torres, Evan Freese and Kristine Koziar, make sure it is an invasive English Ivy plant they have located before they uproot it.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Fatal Crash in Reston

A 23-year-old man from Maryland died Saturday morning, March 24, after striking a traffic signal pole. Officers responded to the area of Baron Cameron Avenue and Hunter Mill Road around 1:15 a.m. for the report of a single car crash.

The driver, 23-year-old, Johnny Nony Souvannavong of Upper Marlboro, was the only occupant of the car. Detectives from Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating the crash and believe speed was a factor. The Subaru was traveling eastbound on Baron Cameron Avenue near Hunter Mill Road when a tire went off the roadway. The driver over corrected and lost control of the vehicle, causing the vehicle to cross over eastbound lanes, the center median and westbound lanes before striking the traffic signal pole. Souvannavong was taken to the hospital and pronounced deceased.

OBITUARY

Joan Elizabeth Preusser

Joan Elizabeth Preusser died peacefully early Tuesday morning March 27, 2018, in Front Royal, Va. at the home of her loving daughter Pamela Preusser-Thompson.

Joan was born Dec. 16, 1933 in Stamford, Conn. to the late John and Johanna Buckley, both immigrants from Ireland, and grew up in New Canaan and Darien, Conn. She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy and St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing in Bridgeport, Conn. She was an RN at St. Joseph's Hospital.

After marriage to her husband Paul in 1956 she moved to the University of Connecticut at Storrs where her husband pursued his Engineering degree. She and Paul formed lifelong cherished friendships while there. In 1967 they moved to nascent Reston, in Hunters Woods. She raised her five children in Reston while being active in the local community. She was a founding member of St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church. She also was an afterschool provider for the Reston Children's Center.

Married to an entrepreneur, Joan assisted in her husband's businesses which included the creation of the Reston Internal Bus System (RIBS), The Executive Desk a business incubator, Help U Sell Real Estate franchise of Reston/Herndon, and Partners in Real Estate. Joan was also an active volunteer for the Democratic

party.

Later in life, Joan worked as a receptionist at the Ethan Allen Furniture store in Tysons Corner.

Summers brought her back to New England to reconnect with family and friends creating cherished memories.

Joan and Paul enjoyed a wonderful group of friends and hosted the annual Senior Olympics at their Lake Thoreau home. Their parties were legendary. Joan's Women's Group and Bridge group provided support after the sudden loss of her beloved husband in 2004. She truly loved Reston, her family, friends and church.

Joan was preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Paul B. Preusser as well as her brothers John Buckley and Walter Buckley. She is survived by her children, Pamela Thompson and husband John of Front Royal Va., Paul F. Preusser of Vienna, Kathleen Preusser of Reston, John Preusser and wife Donielle of Wilmington, N.C., Ryan Preusser and Wendy Wickham of Arlington, Va.

She was a loving grandmother to Sean Thompson, John Paul Preusser and Sophia Preusser, caring aunt to niece Kris Harrington (and her daughter Elise) and nephews John and Patrick Buckley.

She will be missed.

In lieu of flowers consider contributions to the Embury Rucker Homeless Shelter or Cornerstones of Reston.

Reston Fulfills a Tree City Requirement

Pull out invasive plants; plant the native plants.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Tree City USA program recognizes cities for their excellence in urban forestry management. Reston is a named Tree City USA Community because it is committed its urban tree canopy. To achieve Tree City USA status, Reston had to meet four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

On Monday, April 2, 2018, Patricia Pearl Greenberg, Environmental Resource Supervisor Reston Association (RA) stood with 28 volunteers of all ages, preschoolers to seniors, at Arbor Day Site 1 of 3, the planting site by Shadbush Court and the tot-lot at the center of the Old Trail Drive loop in Reston.

RA staff and volunteers were there in the drizzle to take back the woods from invasive species and replant with native trees and bushes. Staff provided all needed equipment for the volunteer corporate groups, families, individuals and students.

Standing ready to tackle the underbrush were Starbucks partners, Jessica Torres, Kristine Koziar, Jessica Jacobs, and Evan Freese. After a quick lesson by

Greenberg, their mission would be to uproot English Ivy so the other volunteers could replant with native species. Greenberg explained, "We have quite a few invasive species here. English Ivy, Bush Honeysuckle, Invasive Cherry Tree, Autumn Olive, and Burning Bush. They have a strong, aggressive character that helps them take over our native species."

Starbucks partner, Kristine Koziar seemed aware of Starbucks commitment to the environment. She said: "One tree, one neighborhood, one community at a time."

In the middle of the muddy site stood a family, a mom and three young children. Undeterred by the soft drizzle, they were busy planting trees and placing protective grow tubes around them to help the young saplings survive. The grow tubes act like mini-greenhouses and help build and grow the roots, stem and shoots. When asked what they had just finished planting, Ethan McGregor, 5, said, "We planted a deciduous tree." Greenberg shared, "Arbor Day was the first federal holiday created to celebrate trees, even before Earth Day. RA staff enjoys working with volunteers to help remove invasive plants and install native species to improve wildlife habitat. Without the support from our community, we would not be able to accomplish the extent of the work that we do on Arbor Day."



The McGregor children of Reston, Rose, 7, and Ethan, 5, make sure Violet, 7, is giving the deciduous tree they planted enough water.



Reston Association staff provided all needed equipment for the twenty-eight volunteers at Arbor Day Site 1.

Blood Donation Opportunities

Though spring has officially arrived, the American Red Cross blood supply is still recovering from severe winter storms in March. Donors of all blood types are urged to roll up a sleeve and help save lives.

Volunteer blood donors from across the country are needed to help ensure lifesaving blood products are available for patients this spring. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red

Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the area, March 20 to April 15

Herndon

4/9/2018: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St.

4/11/2018: 1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St

HOME SALES

In February 2018, 76 Reston homes sold between \$1,263,000-\$92,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	.....	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	PostalCode
11104 CHESSINGTON PL	6	5	2	.....	RESTON	.....	\$1,263,000	Detached	0.24	.....	20194
1286 GATESMEADOW WAY	4	4	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$950,000	Detached	0.83	.....	20194
12122 KINSLEY PL	3	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$870,000	Townhouse	0.06	.....	20190
11869 FAWN RIDGE LN	5	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$831,000	Detached	0.52	.....	20194
1919 UPPER LAKE DR	3	2	2	.....	RESTON	.....	\$825,000	Detached	0.28	.....	20191
11402 NIGHT STAR WAY	4	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$795,000	Detached	0.21	.....	20194
2517 FARRIER LN	5	3	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$708,000	Detached	0.36	.....	20191
2402 PADDOCK LN	4	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$700,000	Detached	0.57	.....	20191
2524 PINOAK LN	5	4	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$699,995	Detached	0.37	.....	20191
2225 WAKEROBIN LN	3	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$695,000	Detached	0.26	.....	20191
11112 LAKESPRAY WAY	3	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$694,500	Townhouse	0.07	.....	20191
11448 TANBARK DR	5	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$644,000	Detached	0.27	.....	20191
12216 QUORN LN	4	4	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$640,000	Detached	0.60	.....	20191
1340 SUNDIAL DR	3	2	2	.....	RESTON	.....	\$635,000	Townhouse	0.07	.....	20194
12352 LIMA LN	4	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$619,000	Detached	0.34	.....	20191
11410 SUMMER HOUSE CT	3	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$605,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	20194
11642 MEDITERRANEAN CT	5	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$575,000	Patio Home	0.08	.....	20190
11554 BRASS LANTERN CT	3	3	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$575,000	Townhouse	0.09	.....	20194
1226 WILD HAWTHORN WAY	3	2	2	.....	RESTON	.....	\$535,500	Townhouse	0.04	.....	20194
10901 KNIGHTS BRIDGE CT	4	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$515,000	Townhouse	0.08	.....	20190
2021 GOLF COURSE DR	4	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.07	.....	20191
12025 NEW DOMINION PKWY #304 ..	1	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$472,875	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors .....		.....	20190
12180 ABINGTON HALL PL #304	3	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$445,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
1429 GREENMONT CT	3	2	2	.....	RESTON	.....	\$426,950	Townhouse	0.06	.....	20190
11720 MOSSY CREEK LN	3	2	2	.....	RESTON	.....	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.05	.....	20191
1630 POPLAR GROVE DR	3	2	2	.....	RESTON	.....	\$422,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.04	.....	20194
11800 SUNSET HILLS RD #422	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$420,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....		.....	20190
1942 CRESCENT PARK DR #26A	2	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$420,000	Townhouse .....		.....	20190
11775 STRATFORD HOUSE PL #108 ..	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$410,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
1655 SIERRA WOODS DR	3	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$405,000	Townhouse	0.05	.....	20194
11990 MARKET ST #408	1	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$400,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....		.....	20190
2257 WHEELWRIGHT CT	3	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.03	.....	20191
1634 SIERRA WOODS DR	3	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$397,000	Townhouse	0.03	.....	20194
11407 GATE HILL PL #97A	2	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$395,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20194
11800 SUNSET HILLS RD #202	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$385,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....		.....	20190
11800 SUNSET HILLS RD #420	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$385,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....		.....	20190
11405F WINDLEAF CT #21	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$385,000	Townhouse .....		.....	20194
12016 TALIESIN PL #22	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$377,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
1628 POPLAR GROVE DR	2	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	20194
1631 FIELDTHORN DR	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	20194
2270 COVENT GARDENS CT	4	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$369,900	Townhouse	0.03	.....	20191
12009 TALIESIN PL #32	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$360,500	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
1600 POPLAR GROVE DR	2	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$355,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	20194
11928 REDTREE WAY	2	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$345,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	20194
11144 HARBOR CT #11144	1	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$337,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20191
2045 HEADLANDS CIR	2	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$335,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	20191
1705 LAKE SHORE CREST DR #35	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$327,500	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors .....		.....	20190
11188 SILENTWOOD LN	2	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	20191
12141 PURPLE SAGE CT	2	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$313,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	20194
1515 NORTH POINT DR #301	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$310,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20194
12000 MARKET ST #163	2	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$307,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
12152 CAPTIVA CT	2	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.03	.....	20191
1329 GARDEN WALL CT #508	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$300,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20194
11216 BEAVER TRAIL CT #9	2	2	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$297,500	Townhouse .....		.....	20191
2469 FOX TROT TER	2	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$295,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	20191
2369 SOUTHGATE SQ	3	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$285,830	Townhouse	0.03	.....	20191
1463 CHURCH HILL PL #1463	2	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$280,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20194
12001 MARKET ST #369	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$267,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....		.....	20190
11301 SUNDIAL CT #101	2	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$259,500	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20194
2073 ROYAL FERN CT #22C	3	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$255,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20191
11236 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ #261	3	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$254,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
1668 PARKCREST CIR #300	2	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
11236 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ #262	3	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
11216 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ #318	3	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$237,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
1506C SUMMERCHASE CT #1506 #C ..	2	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$233,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20194
11721 KARBON HILL CT #T1	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$229,900	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20191
11212 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ #216	3	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$216,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
2217 HUNTERS RUN DR #2217	1	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$210,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20191
11240 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ #157	2	1	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$209,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
1730 ASCOT WAY #A	2	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$209,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20190
1897A VILLARIDGE DR #A	2	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$200,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20191
11657 STONEVIEW SQ #21C	3	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$195,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20191
2214 CASTLE ROCK SQ #2B	2	2	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$182,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20191
2038 ROYAL FERN CT #2A	1	1	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$170,500	Garden 1-4 Floors .....		.....	20191
1951 SAGEWOOD LN #209	2	2	0	RESTON	\$115,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	20191
1951 SAGEWOOD LN #503	2	2	0	RESTON	\$92,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	20191

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Hunter Mill Road over Colvin Run
Bridge Replacement
Fairfax County
Public Information Meeting

Monday, April 16, 2018
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Forest Edge Elementary School
1501 Becontree Lane
Reston, VA 20190

Find out about plans to improve safety and operations by replacing the weight-restricted, one-lane Hunter Mill Road (Route 674) bridge over Colvin Run with a new two-lane bridge that will have four-foot-wide shoulders.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. VDOT will hold a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2606 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by April 26, 2018 to Brian Morrison, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Hunter Mill Road over Colvin Run" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0674-029-358, P101, R201, B643
UPC: 110499
Federal: STP-BR09 (295)

Looking down the stream at all the children and families fishing along the banks of Snakeden Branch in Reston, Brent Clark said, "This is all about the kids and getting children connected to the outdoors."



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Trout For Dinner Anyone?

Spring weather in Reston means giving fishing a try for many local children.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Reston Association held its Annual Free Kids' Trout Fishing Day Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 8 a.m.-noon along a section of Snakeden Branch Stream in Reston. Wetland Studies and Solutions restored that area in the spring of 2009 as part of the Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank.

RA invited children ages 3-15 to learn how to fish, a life-long love of many Restonian parents and grandparents who wanted to pass the joy of fishing onto the next generation.

Sponsors Wetland Studies and Solutions, Reston Association, Friends of Reston, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited, and the Wildlife Foun-



Olivia Gallihugh, 4, of Manassas, holds up one of three trout she caught in Snakeden Branch Stream during Reston Association Annual Kids' Trout Fishing Day held Saturday, March 24, 2018.

dation of Virginia acted as partnering hosts, the result of strong working relationships during the stream's restoration project. During the project, in-stream rock structure, log vanes and a planting plan reduced the continued bed and bank erosion offering long-term stabilization.

Volunteers from the sponsoring organizations taught the children

how to use the loaner equipment. To make the event even more child-friendly, the Northern Virginia chapter of Trout Unlimited stood ready to clean and fillet the day's catch.

Chances of the children catching a fish or the limit of four fish were high. Two days before, each pool in the stream had been stocked with rainbow trout donated by Wetland Studies and Solutions, Incorporated. Seven-hundred-fifty fish, many over a foot and half in length, had been dumped bucketful by bucketful in the stream's dredged pools.

"Fishing is my favorite day of the year," said Olivia Gallihugh, 4, of Manassas, as she stood on the bank wearing her little fishing vest. "I like to go fishing with my dad."

Finn Skelton 6, of Reston, came with his grandfather, Brent Clark, who was familiar with WSSI and their work. Clark was the person who in 2011 came up with the idea of "a fishing derby" after walking along the stream's banks after it was restored.

As his grandson pulled a large trout out of the water, Clark said, "This is all about the kids and getting children connected to the outdoors."



Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI) provided the fish stocked in Snakeden Branch for participants at Reston Association Free Trout Fishing Day held Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 8 a.m.- noon.

Finn Skelton, 6, of Reston gets a little encouragement from John Odenkirk, Fisheries Biologist III Certified Fisheries Scientist, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Finn hoped for a big one and got it. "I'm going to fry it and eat it with French fries," Finn said enthusiastically.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Untitled public art created by American artist Danny Lane for Boston Properties is turning heads in Reston.

New Public Art in Reston Glass sculpture is turning heads.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

American artist, Danny Lane created a twelve-foot, stacked, iron-glass sculpture on a granite plinth for Boston Properties, the owner of the luxury residential development, Signature in Reston Town Center's urban core. The untitled sculpture is located within Signature Park at 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. The site is still under construction.

According to Public Art Reston, "The gently twisting glass form and plinth are situated in the center of a circular area where three pedestrian paths converge. The circular

area will be defined by a visible change in hardscape material creating a transition from the community path to the sculpture site. "The mission of Public Art Reston is to inspire an ongoing commitment to public art and create a new generation of artworks in Reston.

According to Anne Delaney, Executive Director Public Art Reston a Grand Unveiling of the public artwork is in works by Boston Properties. Delaney shared there will also be an Artist Talk with Danny Lane when he is back in the United States. Lane currently lives in London. For more information about the sculpture visit, www.publicartreston.org.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Assistance League of Northern Virginia to Hold Fundraiser

The annual Spring Fundraiser is Assistance League of Northern Virginia's most important fundraiser of the year with money raised benefiting the nonprofit's 2018-19 programs which feed, clothe and educate children in need in our communities.

Set for April 27, the event will take place from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, in Fairfax. This year's luncheon and silent auction is sponsored by: Quadrant, Inc. - \$6,000 Super Star; Joyce Koons Honda Buick GMC - \$1,000 Gold Star; Spine Care of Manassas Chiropractic Center -

\$1,000 Gold Star; Manassas Honda Kawasaki Suzuki - \$250 Bronze Star; NOVEC - \$250 Bronze Star.

The attendees will be able to bid on gifts donated by more than 90 local businesses. The program will also include a live auction and special appeal segment led by Auctioneer Daniel Sanders with Four Sales Ltd. The event will also feature Keynote Speaker Tony Perkins, Anchor, FOX 5 News and Co-host, MAJIC 102.3. Cost per ticket \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. To purchase tickets, contact ALNorthernVA@gmail.com. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Easter Egg Hunt Offers More Than Candy-filled Eggs

At Restoration Church, the newly planted Reston campus of Floris United Methodist Church people find community, build relationships, and grow in faith.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Easter is a time for families and friends to gather; to rejoice in new beginnings and connect with one another after a long and extended winter season. Two of the many ways Reston residents celebrated Easter Sunday 2018 was at worship services and egg hunts, including Easter Service and Egg Hunt at Restoration Church, the new Reston campus of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon.

Restoration Church worship services are held at Forest Edge Elementary School, 1501 Becontree Lane, Reston on Sunday mornings 10 a.m. The newly planted church was created by a dream of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon. Restoration aims to connect with people who do not currently go to church or do not feel connected to a community. "At Restoration, we strive to be a church where all people believe they can come as they are, find community, build real relationships and grow in their faith."

After worship services Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018, church members and neighbors of Restoration Church were stunned when they went outside and saw nearly 3,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy tossed onto two grassy fields. But that was not all. Nearby, inflatables, games, face painting, food and the ubiquitous Easter Bunny stood ready for people of all ages, faiths, and nationalities to enjoy together. Church members and families from the community engaged in conversation while enjoying the festivities offered in a fun and supportive environment.

Tim Ward is the pastor of Restoration Church. He served for six years as one of the pastors at Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon. Ward appeared excited to be planting the new church in Reston. After the morning Services and Egg Hunt, he stood off to the side as the Easter Festival began. He watched as families and individuals enjoyed the games, food, and inflatables set up in the parking lot.

When asked why the church



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Eric Wang 8, and his sister, Ellie, 5, of Herndon have no problem filling Ellie's basket with candy-filled plastic Easter eggs at Restoration Church Egg Hunt held April 1, 2018, after Easter Sunday Services. The newly planted church meets at Forest Edge Elementary School, 1501 Becontree Lane, Reston.



Bella White, 3, of Ashburn, waits her turn to enjoy the inflatables, food and games at Restoration Church Easter Egg Hunt and Festivities held Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.

held an egg hunt and festival, Ward replied, "It's important for us to connect with the community.

We have found the Easter Egg Hunt is a beautiful way to get to know your neighbors.”



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Two bald eagles tend to three eaglets near Great Falls. Bald eagles usually mate and lay eggs in mid-February. Eggs incubate just over a month — about 35 days — and the young fledge 10 to 12 weeks later.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

A bald eagle protects her three eaglets on Minnehaha Island in the Potomac River.

Bald Eagles Rediscover Potomac

Bald eagles are a sign of ecosystem improvement.

BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

A pair of bald eagles is raising three eaglets on Minnehaha Island in the Potomac River. This is the third bald eagle nest in the Great Falls area this year and the second known to contain hatchlings. The proximity of the nests tells naturalists at Riverbend Park that the area's ecosystem is improving.

Last week, the Potomac Conservancy issued a report that said the Potomac River's health is better than recent decades. The river's report card gave the Potomac a B — up from a D in 2011.

"We hope these additional nests are indicators of increasing biodiversity of species and that means the ecosystem is healthier — birds, amphibians, and mammals — but this takes many years," said Julie Gurnee, Riverbend Park naturalist.

WILDLIFE SPECIALISTS and national park rangers say bald eagles actively nested on Conn Island near Great Falls National Park for the past 20 years. A pair of eagles are nesting on Minnehaha Island for a second year. A young eagle that fledged last year is often spotted fishing in the Potomac River by the Riverbend Visitor's Center.

Wildlife enthusiasts are watching a third bald-eagle nest on Watkins Island near Riverbend Park. "What's surprising is their proximity to each other," said Gurnee. "This is much closer than we expected to see another eagle nest."

Pollution and lead, such as buckshot and fishing weights, threaten eagles scavenging



A break in foliage along Riverbend Park's Potomac Heritage Trail allows outdoor enthusiasts to view an eagle's nest on Minnehaha Island in the Potomac River. With binoculars, eaglets are frequently visible.

during winter months, said Alonso Abugattas of the Capital Naturalist website and educator at Northern Virginia parks.

Boosting biodiversity takes years. Long-term river and wildlife health depends on residents taking steps such as installing native plants and increasing natural stream

buffers with deep roots to absorb herbicides, fertilizers, and road runoff, and reducing waste and lowering emissions and reliance on cars, said Gurnee and Abugattas.

VIRGINIA BLUEBELL blooms are expected to peak the week of the Riverbend



Majestic Bald eagle.

"We hope these additional nests are indicators of increasing biodiversity of species and that means the ecosystem is healthier — birds, amphibians, and mammals — but this takes many years."

— Julie Gurnee, Riverbend Park naturalist

Park's Bluebell Festival, which is Saturday, April 14, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. During the festival, a scope will be set up along Potomac Heritage Trail so visitors may observe eagle-nest activity. Festival admission is \$7 online and \$9 on site.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Youth Art Month. Through April 7 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/.

Emerging Visions: Becoming. Through April 7 at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Offers Fairfax County high school students the opportunity to work with Greater Reston Arts Center's education staff to create exceptional artworks to be exhibited in the GRACE Gallery. The 2018 exhibition includes works from students at Herndon, Oakton, and South Lakes high schools. Visit www.restonarts.org.

Rebels, Masters, and Scoundrels: The Art of Star Wars. Through April 29 at ArtInsights, Reston Town Center, Reston. New art by LucasFilm concept artist Bill Silvers and rare images by movie campaign artist John Alvin will be on exhibit and for sale. Call 703-478-0778. Visit www.artinsights.com.

Craig Moran: Spaced Out. Through May 29 at GRACE at Signature, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. A D.C.-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases, Moran's newest body of work is a whirl-wind of exuberant colors and energetic shapes, evoking elements of the natural world and portraiture in a dynamic flattened space. Call 703-471-9242 or visit www.restonarts.org.

Homegrown Yoga. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Alison Adams is bringing Homegrown Yoga to all levels. Drop in and take a class. \$25 two week unlimited pass or drop-in available. Visit www.homegrownpoweryoga.com

The Elden Street Tea Shop. Saturdays in ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sip tea and enjoy a variety of locally made snacks and pastries while enjoying the latest art installations in the gallery. Visit www.eldenstreettea.com.

IMPROVING ENGLISH

One-To-One English Conversation. Mondays, 1 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Multiple one-on-one practice sessions with a volunteer are available each week. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Pre-Beginners. Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Beginners. Tuesdays 10-11 a.m. with Beth; Thursdays 10-11 a.m. with Genie; Fridays 10-11 a.m. with Ivan. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Intermediate. Mondays 10-11 a.m. with Rick; Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. with Susan; Wednesdays 2-3 p.m. with Sharoni. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Advanced. Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. with Richard; Fridays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with Mary. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Vocabulary Building. Mondays 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Speak & Write. Mondays, 1:30-3 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Dialogs & Grammar. Tuesdays, 11:15-12:30 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Pronunciation. Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

Chick-fil-A Opens. At 1494 Northpoint Village Center, Reston. Overnight party on April 4 where guests will be one of the first 100 adults

Herndon Author Begins Coast-to-Coast Book Tour

Kwame Alexander will stop at Scrawl Books in Reston, Wednesday, April 5 for his new book, 'Rebound.'

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Are your tweens obsessed with books in verse? How about sports? Herndon resident, Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator and the New York Times Best Selling author of 25 books, including “The Crossover,” a Newbery Medal winner. The book is a sports novel written in verse for middle school-aged children.

School Library Journal (starred review) praised “The Crossover.” “Alexander has crafted story that vibrates with energy and heat and begs to be read aloud. A slam dunk.”

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review), wrote, “Alexander fully captures Josh's athletic finesse and coming of age angst in a mix of free verse and hip-hop poetry...”

Now Alexander is out to promote his newest book, “Rebound,” the follow-up to “Crossover.” He is on a 30-day, 24-stop, coast-to-coast book tour. Reston is his fourth stop. Just like basketball teams, Alexander travels in a tour bus, but his bus is professionally wrapped to look exactly like the cover of his new book.

Alexander and his bus will be in Reston at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 5, 2018, at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Alexander is there for a book signing.

Booklist (starred review) praised “Rebound”: “{brilliant} wordplay and syntax. There is a rhythm to each page, whether it's the snappy give-and-take of

through the door to win a year of free Chick-fil-A meals. Operator Larry Everett, who is a retired firefighter of 30 years from Fairfax County, will provide a year supply of Chick-fil-A to the first 100 eligible participants, 18 years and older, who follow the rules. The First 100 promotion registration will begin at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4. A valid ID is required to participate. Visit the website thechickenwire.chick-fil-a.com.

Yoga and Wellness. 7 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local yoga and wellness coach, Rupa Shah, will discuss the benefits and practice of Ashtanga Yoga. Bring your own yoga mat. Learn some simple Asanas and Breathing/Pranayama based on Ashtanga Yoga. Beginners to Intermediate level. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

THURSDAY/APRIL 5

Read! Build! Play! 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join for stories, build with DUPLOs and play with friends. Age 3-5 with adult. Register at 703-689-2700.

Classical Piano Concert. 2:15 p.m. at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Pianist George Fu, graduate of Harvard, Curtis Institute, the Royal Academy in London. Email aclark24@gmu.edu or call 703-503-3384.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RHALEE HUGHES PUBLIC RELATIONS + MARKETING

Kwame Alexander writes sports novels for middle school-aged children in verse. His latest book, 'Rebound,' is the follow-up to his Newbery Medal-winning and New York Times Bestselling book, 'The Crossover.'

dialogue, the throbbing of Charlie's bottomless melancholy, or the rushing excitement of a basketball game... Alexander is unstoppable.”

“Rebound” by Kwame Alexander is available in hardcover for \$16.99, 414 pages. The book is appropriate for readers 10-12 years of age. Sales opened April 2, 2018.

Kwame Alexander at Scrawl. 4-5:30 p.m. at Scrawl Books at Reston Town Center, 19111 Freedom Drive, Reston. Free. Join Kwame Alexander fans welcoming the Newbery winner and his tour bus to Scrawl Books. He will sign his newest title, “Rebound,” a prequel to “The Crossover.” Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Millennials Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Call for title. Check out a library copy or pick up a copy of your own. Adults from early 20s to early 30s. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

VIP Reston. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Support for individuals with vision impairments. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

Open Mic Poetry Night. 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featured members of the Poetry Society of Virginia will be present to share their poetry. An open mic will follow, allowing for anyone attending to have a moment on stage. Free. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Reston-Herndon Little League Opening Day. 9-10 a.m. at Reston Town Center. Local teams will parade along Market Street from the Pavilion to Reston Town Square Park in celebration of the opening of their season. Visit rhbaseball.org.

Spring Cleaning in the Parks. 9-11:30 a.m. at 10 different Fairfax County parks: Cub Run RECenter, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Hidden Oaks Nature Center at Roundtree Park, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Huntley Meadows Park, Lake Accotink Park, Lake Fairfax Park, Riverbend Park, Scott's Run Nature Preserve, and Sully Historic Site. More than 750 volunteers will join the Fairfax County Park Authority and The Nature Conservancy for annual “spring cleaning” efforts to kickoff Earth Month. The volunteers will remove trash and debris, while also assisting scientists and conservationists by recording data about what they remove. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/.

Lucky Enough Book Talk. 11:30 a.m. at Scrawl Books at Reston Town Center, 19111 Freedom Drive, Reston. Free. About a young travel team baseball player featuring sports author Fred Bowen. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Delaney's Book Drive. 4-5 p.m. at 1713 Ascot Way, Reston. A record number of kids are growing up in low-income households and many public schools lack the funding and resources to provide basic necessities, like books for their students. Help volunteers collect 2,000 used or new books for children in need. Visit www.barberaFOUNDATION.org/events/delaney-book-drive-1.

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at American Tap Room, 1811 Library St., Reston. Fixed price dinner followed by movie at Bow-Tie Cinema. Cost is \$35. RSVP required. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.
TGIF – Free Friday at GRACE. 5-7 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., #103, Reston. Enjoy an after-hours evening of free family art-making and storytelling. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Sing! Books With Miss Emily. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Miss Emily for singing storytime with illustrated songs. Age 2-5 with adult. No registration required.

DUPLOs and Play. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Build and create with DUPLOs and play with friends. Age 3-5 with adult. No registration required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

SUNDAY/APRIL 8

Walk MS Fundraising Event. 9 a.m. registration. Walk begins at 10 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Walk for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. More than 800 people expected to attend. Visit walkMS.org, call 855-372-1331 or email fundraisingsupport@nmss.org.

RCC Cycles Classes. Multiple dates. Reston Community Center is offering program that helps riders of all ages learn cycling fundamentals. Cycling instructor Kelley Westenhoff will teach four sessions: Adult (ages 13 and up) on April 8 and 29 and youth (ages 6 to 12) on April 21 and May 5. Each class is one three-hour session. The cost is \$65 for Reston patrons/\$98 for non-Reston. The fee includes bike rental and use of a helmet. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

Strings on the Promenade - Harp Performances. 3-4 p.m. at The Promenade at Reston Town Center. Enjoy harp music on Sundays in April, featuring Carmen Robinson playing tunes for all ages: Celtic, rock, R&B and popular theme songs. Free. Visit www.restontowncenter.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Family History Research. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, Research family history with a library staff member using local history and genealogy resources. For adults and teens. No registration required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

Read to the Dog. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Ages 5-11. Register at 703-689-2700.

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Announcements

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**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

NEWS

Transparency Required

FROM PAGE 3

The StoneTurn Group review mentioned the CEO at length and her involvement as seen through their eyes. They stated in the 2017 report: "We note that the CEO of the Association has regularly acted throughout the process to improve the policies and processes as either ambiguities were found or it was evident that the processes required improvements...as deficiencies in the internal renovation estimation process were encountered, the CEO decided to forego her bonus and salary increase as well as those of another staff member directly involved in the internal renovation estimation process. Any control environment encounters weak- nesses and deficiencies from time to time; the processes by which these are identified addressed and remediated, including an appropriate 'tone at the top' that proactively implements corrective actions, is important."

IN THE REPORT, The StoneTurn Group found multiple other areas

besides the new whistleblower's policy and revised purchasing and procurement resolution that could be improved to preclude a recurrence of the budget overruns experienced on the Tetra renovations.

The group shared the observations they believed would facilitate an increase in transparency.

The StoneTurn report cited fifteen recommendations. Among those remaining and not yet implemented by board actions are: the creation and implementation of a comprehensive Code of Conduct for both the Association Board of Directors and staff; consideration of adopting a policy that would provide greater transparency to the considerations undertaken in Executive Session; preparation of a long-term Capital Improvement Plan and updating it on an annual basis; the establishment of a process to ensure that purchase orders and contracts could not be issued without encumbering the funds and ensuring that approved budgeted amounts are sufficient.

Fundraiser for Moms Demand Action

**Event Saturday, April 14 at
Cafe Montmartre in Reston.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Robin Griffin, formerly of Reston and now living in Centreville has been doing live comedy in the Northern Virginia region since the summer of 2017. Griffin uses the stage name "Robin Rex."

Things have been going well for the comedian, who is also a teacher and mom. However, after hearing about the recent school shootings, Griffin wanted to do something to make a difference. She looked at her new business venture, FunnyFriend Productions, a booking company for comedians in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Since comedians in the company, as well as Griffin, perform every second Saturday in Reston at Cafe Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza, Lake Anne, Griffin announced she

would donate a portion of each ticket sold for the Saturday, April 14, 8-10 p.m show to the local chapter of Moms Demand Action, a campaign of Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund. According to its website, the organization was created "...to demand action from legislators, state and federal; companies; and educational institutions to establish common-sense gun reforms."

The headliner for the fundraiser is Rob Maher, regional winner of Comedy Central's Up Next Competition. Griffin will present the donation check to Moms Demand Action during the evening performance. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com or with cash at the door. Call Cafe Montmartre 703-904-8080 for a table reservation.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

First Wednesday with Supervisor Hudgins. 4-6 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stop in and talk with Supervisor Cathy Hudgins one-on-one. No appointment necessary. Call 703-478-0283, email huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill.

THURSDAY/APRIL 5

Autism 101: An Introduction to Understanding Autism. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Join the **Autism Society of Northern Virginia** to learn accurate, important, basic information at this workshop highlighting Autism Acceptance Month. Open to all who want to learn more about autism. Visit www.fcps.edu/node/28279.

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

Strategies to Support Elementary School Students. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. A Closer Look at Stress and Anxiety: Strategies to Support Elementary School Students. Highlights will include recognizing and validating a child's worry, managing anxiety in the school setting, helping a child remain calm, and using stress reduction tools. Visit www.fcps.edu/node/28279.

Scholarship Nomination Deadline. The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for their 2018 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Flash Forward! Postsecondary Education and Employment Options. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Entrance 1 - Cafeteria, Fairfax. Flash Forward is for students receiving special education services and their parents to explore options for life after high school. The agenda includes information tables, an overview of postsecondary options, and workshops on supported employment, competitive employment, and postsecondary education. Visit www.fcps.edu/node/28279.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY/APRIL 10-12

FY 2019 Budget Meetings. April 10, 4 p.m.; April 11-12, 1 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center (Board Auditorium), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The advertised budget plan can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advised-budget-plan. Sign up to speak at the public hearings on the FY 2019 budget at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form or call 703-324-3151.

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-Thomas Fuller

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An expert is someone
who knows some of the worst mis-
takes that can be made in his subject
and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Label Me Presumptuous



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have not been collecting return-address labels for years. I have however, been receiving them for years. Either as thank yous for charitable contributions made or as inducements for charitable contributions yet to be made. Regardless of the reason, I have had an ample supply until recently. And they have served me well as both a reminder of what I have and have not done. And over time, they have most definitely served their purpose. Amazingly though, the pages of return-address labels in inventory has been shrinking of late. Due to some combination of my lack of charitableness as well as a reduction in the numbers of unsolicited charitable quid pro quos (there may be a relationship there).

Let me be clear: I am under no delusion or pressure to respond to these letters/requests for money. Just because I receive them doesn't mean I must adhere to them. They're hardly a subpoena nor are they payment for services rendered. They are merely a pre-approach-type solicitation mailed to me at my home offering goods (the labels) for services (my contribution) not yet rendered. Opening an envelope and reading its contents doesn't make me a partner in their pursuit of my dollars.

But what exactly is the protocol here? Certainly I can understand keeping and/or using the return-address labels if I make a contribution, but what if I don't make a contribution? Do I have to throw these perfectly good return-address labels away? Don't some of these labels, by their design/content - and ultimately by their use by yours truly, indirectly support the original sender's cause? Isn't their use some kind of tacit paying-it forward-type approval/contribution on my part? I realize money and/or in-kind contributions likely help more, but is there use by a non-contributor not abuse at all? After all, I'm sort of passing the word/keeping their chain going, aren't I?

If all is fair in love and war, certainly there's a little wiggle room in the world of mailing unsolicited inducements to unsuspecting recipients? I mean, I'm not asking for trouble here, am I? I'm merely asking for some understanding and clarification. If what was sent to me - not at my request and not as part of a phone conversation securing a commitment, was not my doing, then why am I responsible for it being done?

Obviously the labels are a convenience for me, and that is worth some amount of money and time that now I'm not having to spend. Still, it feels like an intrusion of sorts, a method to their madness - presumably, but to me a presumption, nevertheless. And that's just a few letters away from an assumption, and you all know what is said about assuming?

I suppose if you cast a wide enough net you're going to catch a few contributors who don't find anything fishy about this direct mail process and who feel compelled to respond favorably - so to speak, because a good deed has been for them. And if a good deed (or a "solid," to quote Detective Andy Sipowicz/Dennis Franz from NYPD Blue) deserves another then contributions will be made and address labels will be affixed.

But after years of receiving these return-address-labels-masquerading-as-solicitations-for-contributions - to a variety of charities, some more well known than others, I don't feel the least bit stuck in my decision to use these return address labels as I see fit. In a way, I am the beneficiary of their largess and in turn, they are the beneficiary of my non-cash contribution. It's sort of a win-win. But I don't suppose that was their intention. I suppose they wanted more, not less.

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

OPINION

Legislators: County Has Authority To Ban Loaded Rifles on Road

The following letter to all members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from members of the General Assembly from Fairfax, urges common sense action on guns; the state legislators say Fairfax County has the authority to ban loaded shotguns and rifles on the roads.

Dear Madam Chairman and Hon. Supervisors: Section 15.2-915.2 of the Code of Virginia gives all local governments in Virginia the authority to ban loaded shotguns and loaded rifles on public highways.

§ 15.2-915.2. Regulation of transportation of a loaded rifle or shotgun.

The governing body of any county or city may by ordinance make it unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within such locality.

A similar ordinance has been enacted in the counties of Fauquier, Loudoun, Madison, Albemarle, Chesterfield, Clarke, James City, King George, New Kent, Northumberland, Surry, Warren and the cities of Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Richmond,

Roanoke, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg.

We, members of the Virginia General Assembly representing Fairfax County, do not believe that there is a need for loaded shotguns or loaded rifles on Fairfax County's public roads. High emotions that come with traffic congestion in our region have led to instances where firearms have been discharged in incidents of road rage. Requiring that shotguns and rifles are not loaded at the beginning of a trip will help to reduce the potential for such split-second, life-changing decisions to occur in a moment of anger. Such an ordinance will also help to protect the driver and passengers, including children, as well as law enforcement from the accidental discharge of one of these weapons. For example, in 2006, Virginia State Trooper Kevin C. Manion was killed after a loaded rifle went off during a wreck cleanup in Clark County.

We recognize that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors considered this issue in 2015.

However given recent events, we believe that it is important at this time for all our localities

to use their existing authority to foster gun safety and protect the driving public.

We hereby ask that you initiate the processes necessary to change Fairfax County's ordinances to prohibit the transportation of loaded shotguns and loaded rifles to the fullest extent possible under Virginia Law.

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36)
Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35)
Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)
Sen. David Marsden (D-37)
Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33)
Sen. George Barker (D-39)
Del. Kaye Kory (D-38)
Del. Mark Keam (D-35)
Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48)
Del. Ken Plum (D-36)
Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49)
Del. David Bulova (D-37)
Del. Karrie K. Delaney (D-67)
Del. Paul Krizek (D-44)
Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86)

March for Your Cause

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

Our Founding Fathers were brilliant individuals. Not only did they craft a new form of government with the United States Constitution, but they established a government of "we the people" leaving behind monarchies and special privileges. While it created "a more perfect union," it included within its structure mechanisms upon which the union could be further perfected.

While it did take a civil war to bring about the most needed reform that had been debated at the Constitutional Convention and not settled but compromised away, many other reforms and perfectations have taken place through constitutional amendments, laws

and judicial decisions.

With the massive changes that have taken place in our nation's history, particularly in civil rights, it is amazing that there have been so few changes to our basic structure of government. Building on the ideals of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence that all persons have inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the Constitution and its provisions created a way to realize these goals that ensures America's greatness is not in its past but in its future.

Most often mentioned in the guarantees that propel our country into future greatness are the freedoms of speech, press and religion. Less discussed in the past but now seen as a critically impor-



tant right to maintain our free government is the freedom to assemble. If freedoms are to be maintained in the future, it may be our right to assemble that will ensure it happens.

It is somewhat ironic that at a time

when the internet enables advocacy blitzes to fill the electronic mail boxes of public officials to support a cause that the crowds of people filling the streets in various marches may be our greatest safeguard. Many feel it is not enough to simply send a letter or brochure or give or listen to a speech; we need to visibly show the depth and breadth of our cause by assembling supporters by the thousands in the heat, cold, rain or sunshine.

I participate in marches in our

Nation's Capital as well as our State Capital to show support for equality in our society and for an end to gun violence. I find the marches inspirational because of the worthiness of the cause and the wonderful people I meet who have such strong dedication and conviction that they will take part however inconvenient. If you have not taken part in a march, I encourage you to do so. After all, assembling together to support our rights is part of what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they included the right to assemble in our Bill of Rights. The other important day to be sure to exercise your right to assemble is on election day when you have an opportunity to express your right as a citizen. It amplifies your voice when you assemble with others to vote for the persons who most clearly are representing your views on issues.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Enjoy School Libraries

April is School Library Month and a great time to consider all the amazing things a school library achieves for students and the school community. The American Association of School Librarians has dubbed this year's theme "Making Connections," which is a very appropriate theme. All of

schools in Burke are lucky to have certified librarians, which studies show increase reading test scores, overall higher test scores and encourage a love of reading and learning that continues throughout life.

School libraries have much more than books; most have labs where students create, investigate and collaborate on learning projects. In addition to assisting students, the school librarian is a treasured

resource for all classroom teachers in the school. The connections the school librarian makes, and encourages students to make with learning, their community, the world and reading, impact learners as they go on to become life-long learners and productive members of our community.

You can support the American Association of School Librarians and School Library Month by sharing your connections with your

local school. Offer to be a guest reader or to share how reading or librarians influenced your life and career.

Contact your local school today and connect as school librarians help make connections with students, teachers, community and the world.

Alyssa Lingler
 Burke

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