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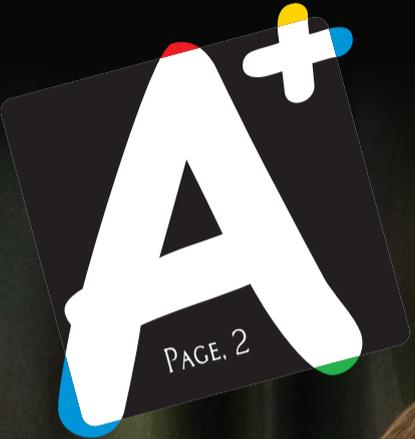
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(From left) Charlene Wheelless, Best of Reston Co-Chair, Bechtel (2016 Best of Reston Honoree), 2018 Best of Reston Presenting Sponsor, Marybeth Haneline, Honoree and Leila Gordon (2016 Honoree), Reston Community Center, 2018 Best of Reston.

Reston CONNECTION

'The Cornerstones' Of Community

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Two Sides to Two and a Half Cents
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PHOTO BY CHIP MCGREA PHOTOGRAPHY
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Managing Money

April is Financial Literacy Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

In an era when consumers can purchase merchandise and deposit money into a bank account using a smartphone, teaching money smarts to children can be fraught with complications. April is Financial Literacy Month and local financial advisors say teaching children how to manage their money responsibly is a necessary part of becoming a financially responsible adult.

“How a parent treats cash is the way their kids will treat cash; lead by example,” said Andrea Foster, professor and department chair of Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications and Paralegal Studies (BEACAPS) at Montgomery College. “If your kid sees you cutting coupons and budgeting, when they grow up they will do the same. They will see the benefits and the value of your thriftiness.”

One of the most important financial lessons that a parent can teach is how to save, advises Foster. “Teach them how to budget so that they can learn how to save for what they want,” she said.

Children pay attention to and learn from the ways in which their parents manage money and it’s critical that they learn financial literacy at home, suggests Victoria G. Henry, assistant vice president at West Financial Services, Inc. in McLean.

“Explaining the concept of savings early to children is key,” added “It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses. Perhaps it could be explained by saying the savings will come in handy if a favorite toy breaks or is lost.”

An ideal time to offer a lesson in saving is when a child receives money as a present for a birthday or other occasion, says Henry. “It is a good practice to have them save even 10 or 20 percent of the gift, and let them have the rest to spend how they want,” she said. “If they decide to spend their fun money on something and then quickly return asking for money for

something else, it is a good to remind them that maybe they should think more carefully about how they want to spend their money in the future. This will help them get into the practice of making wise choices with spending and saving down the road

when they start earning money as well.”

Foster also suggests helping children develop savings goals. “[Whether] by piggy bank, envelope, can, or jar, a vessel is an important tool for teaching kids how to save for major milestones,” said Foster. “Identify a goal for the saving and have them save towards that goal.”

Transparency builds enthusiasm, adds Foster. “Using a clear jar for saving creates enthusiasm and motivation as the kids see it fill up with the coins,” she said. “[Saving] also teaches then self-reliance and not counting on their parents to help them for everything. By giving a reward, kids can learn the value of money and how to spend money.”

Foster also suggests encouraging children to keep a spending diary and limiting the amount of money they can spend or the number of items they can purchase when shopping for themselves. “Show them that stuff costs money,” she said. “Have them keep track of all the money that mom and dad spend on them in one month, from food to clothing and other things. They will realize how much it costs to maintain them and how much all the stuff that they want costs.”

Involve children in a family’s charitable donations, advises Henry. “Ask your children to think about what kinds of charitable efforts the family should support,” she said. “Have them research and pick a charity and



Teaching young children about the concept of saving money is a critical part of financial literacy.

then make a small contribution to that organization on their behalf.”

“Have children earn their allowance and let children experience the pain of not having enough money if they don’t budget correctly,” said Dr. Brian Hollar assistant professor of Accounting, Economics & Finance at Marymount University. “Experience is a good

teacher and learning when the stakes are low is invaluable.”

Hollar underscores the importance of teaching solid math skills. “It’s hard to develop strong financial literacy without understanding exponential growth,” he said.

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Two Sides to Two and a Half Cents

Supervisors to vote on proposed budget, possible real estate tax increase on May 1.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

James Parmelee was the seventh speaker before the Board of Supervisors on the proposed budget. Following school personnel, county employees and a speaker from the PTA, Parmelee was the first to oppose the proposed real estate tax increase.

"I figured somebody in the room should try to speak for the average taxpayer," said Parmelee, a perennial opponent of taxes, when he gave his opinion of the proposed budget on the first of three days of public comment.

More than 150 speakers testified, 158 signed up to speak, during the three days the Board of Supervisors allotted to hear from the public on the FY 2019 budget and proposed tax rate. The public comments lasted more than 11 hours and 20 minutes.

Advocates voiced passion on topics ranging from the environment, health and human services, people with disabilities and who are aging, early childhood education, fire and rescue services, pay for public safety personnel, the opioid epidemic, affordable housing, diversity, mental health treatment, school bonds and capital improvements, the triple A bond rating, the arts, libraries, competitive pay for teachers, and more.

But the issue for the board to decide on May 1 is whether to support County Executive Bryan Hill's proposed budget including a two and a half cent real estate tax increase. The board can accept the real estate tax increase or vote for a smaller amount but can not raise Hill's suggested increase.

"When the voters in Fairfax County have had an opportunity to vote on tax increases, you saw what happened last time," said Parmelee. "The voters of Fairfax County, on the very same day that they overwhelmingly voted for Hillary Clinton, they also overwhelmingly voted against the tax hike."

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

Only four speakers, and approximately 21 minutes, divided Parmelee from speaker No. 12, Kimberly Adams, of Clifton.

"As a mother, taxpayer and employee here in Fairfax County, my life and livelihood are impacted by every budget that this country adopts," said Adams.

"We have to remember that we are preparing the future for more than 185,000 students each year. I would encourage the



Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters



Louise Epstein, McLean Citizens Association



Dale Stein, McLean Citizens Association



Kay Larmer, McLean Commission on Aging



Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board



James Parmelee, Centreville



Kimberly Adams, Clifton



Arthur Purves, Vienna



Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Oakton



Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

Their Own Words, A Glimpse

Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

"Fairfax County's demographics are rapidly changing as you know. It is becoming increasingly diverse, and with these changes often come a unique set of challenges.

"The county's revenue outlook is the most promising it's been in years. However the rate of revenue increase is not reflected in the rate of investment in the poor and working class communities. The low income Fairfax residents, a disproportionate amount of whom are minorities, will not automatically benefit from the improved economy. Thousands will remain reliant on low-wage service sector jobs and many will not receive pay increases. Many of them will not be able to provide for their kids with pre-K education or have access to affordable housing. Therefore, we request that the county direct greater attention and resources to serving the needs of the less fortunate among us."

Annan expressed concern that the county is underfunding Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years.

"Expand access to affordable housing. Many low income residents will not be able to afford to live in Fairfax County. Many of these families will spend up to half or more of their annual budget" on housing.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters

"We support the new property tax rate because we believe it gives you more flexibility in meeting unexpected challenges and we applaud your increased contributions to the reserve funds to satisfy the bond rating agencies. As taxpayers we appreciate your efforts to the county's triple A rating."

Kelly supported Diversion First, gang prevention, the opioid task force, the South County police station and the Office of Elections.

Dale Stein, president, McLean Citizens Association

"MCA is concerned about the context of the increases in spending and the apparent lack of cost savings. MCA feels that each budget should include new efficiency, in operations particularly in budgets of \$4.3 billion. ..."

Louise Epstein, chair, McLean Citizens Association's budget and taxation committee

"We really support teacher raises" while also expressing concern about allotting millions for raises for administrators in the school system.

Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging

"We applaud your commitment to making Fairfax a livable community for people of all ages.

"Currently in Fairfax County, about one in seven residents are older than 65. By 2020, the proportion will nearly be one in five.

"We will need more affordable and accessible housing, improved and more creative transportation services, increased home based and community based services, new communications technology, programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity."

Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board

"Working age people with disabilities make up nearly 15 percent of the Virginia's population and are far more likely to be unemployed and to live in poverty than people without disabilities. Supports for people with disabilities are vital to the fabric of our community. They are every bit as essential to Fairfax County as our roads, emergency first responders, schools and environmental services. They are value added services that empower people with disabilities to live and prosper in the community."

Enrique Carrero, Fairfax County employee

"I am proud to be the first one in my family to graduate from college, and I feel it's important to give back to the community through my job as a public employee. I help families in need get heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. I've heard some people say millennial workers don't care about retirement. So, let me clear that up. As a 23-year-old millennial, I care deeply about my future and believe that we all deserve to live comfortably when we're too old to work."

school system to go under a similar lines of business review that the county has gone through," said Adams, who suggested that savings from collaboration between schools and the county could be identified.

"If at the end of that exercise, savings are not identified, then we must move forward in a responsible manner that may mean raising taxes once more or looking for possible alternatives to property taxes that we have found to be so elusive here in the county," said Adams.

THE PROPOSED \$4.29-BILLION budget would transfer 54 percent of the total to the school system to fully fund FCPS's budget request. It would also fund pay increases for teachers and county employees.

Adams spoke for many others when she addressed quality of life.

"Like so many here, I am happy to have amazing schools, fire and rescue professionals, human services, parks and libraries within my reach. It is why my family lives here," she said, in the three minutes given to each individual speaker.

"All residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed if they work hard, but families that cannot afford homes in this area are a growing group. Many families are working hard but there are not enough good-paying jobs, not enough affordable care options, and certainly not enough affordable homes in this area. ... I appreciate it when you spend my tax dollars to support many who live in need alongside those of us who are doing well. We are Fairfax County and the people who live here want an inclusive and welcoming community for all."

BECAUSE OF VIRGINIA LAW, Fairfax County depends almost entirely on real estate taxes for revenue, putting a burden on homeowners in particular, whose increasing property values don't always demonstrate an ability to pay more.

"For nearly 20 years, this board has been raising real estate taxes two or three times faster than household income," said Arthur Purves, of Vienna.

"This goes on year after year," said Charles McAndrew, of Oak Hill.

Phil Niedzielski-Eichner is the Providence District Planning Commissioner and former school board member. But last week, Niedzielski-Eichner spoke as an individual from Oakton and was the 23rd speaker.

"The key, of course, is attracting and retaining high-quality personnel to both [schools and county]. This budget begins to recover our competitiveness in relation to compensation offered by other governmental jurisdictions. I also support the \$25 million annual increase in FCPS bonding authority to expedite its school renovation and support new construction that will alleviate severe overcrowding in some of the

SEE VOTE, PAGE 11

OPINION

Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13 this year, and as every year at this time, This newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information.

You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Mother's Day is just one of many occasions throughout the year that we would love to receive photos from our readers. Send us photos and notes when anything of note is happening in your family, neighborhood, school, club ... Be sure to include basic information: Name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information. Send to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Soon after we publish our Mother's Day

photo galleries, we will begin to ask for submissions for our Father's Day galleries. Father's Day is June 17 this year.

Each year we seem to receive many more photos for Father's Day. We're curious whether that is because it is the second of the set so readers are more aware or because mothers are more likely to send in images of the Dads.

Twice a year we ask you to send photos and tell us stories about your pets and how they have come into, touched and left your lives, publishing the last week in July and the last week in February.

In late summer, we invite readers to share what they know about their community for neighbors and newcomers alike.

And wrapping up the year, we gather writing and art from local students to fill our holiday edition. Each year, through an enormous effort by area teachers and school staff we receive an amazing display of student talent.

Regular contributions to our entertainment calendars, community bulletin boards, school notes, and business notes help us to share news in your community. We also always welcome photos and captions from community organizations (Scouts, sports teams, faith groups, school activities, etc.) and local businesses.

Please start by sending in photos for Mother's Day, preferably by May 4. www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/.

Virginia Press Association Winners

Connection writers and photographers garnered awards at the Virginia Press Association annual award banquet. Here is the list of our winners, with more details to come in the future:

First Place, Michael Lee Pope, Business and Financial Writing, Great Falls Connection
First Place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing, Chantilly Connection
First Place, Mark Mogle, Pictorial Photo, Great Falls Connection
First Place, Mark Mogle, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
First Place, Eden Brown, Public Safety Writing, Arlington Connection
Second Place, Dan Brendel, Government Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Second Place, Vernon Miles, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Second Place, Fallon Forbush, Breaking News Writing, McLean Connection
Second Place, Fallon Forbush, General News Writing, Reston Connection
Second Place, Bonnie Hobbs, General News Writing, Fairfax Connection
Second Place, Marilyn Campbell, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
Third Place, Shirley Ruhe, Personality or Portrait Photo, Arlington Connection
Third Place, Fallon Forbush, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
Third Place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's Time to Give Volunteers the Credit They Deserve

To the Editor:

This week, April 15-21, is National Volunteer Week, an opportunity for organizations across the country to pause and recognize the importance and impact of the millions of selfless individuals who volunteer in our communities. Governor Northam recently honored some of Virginia's most remarkable individuals and organizations that have committed to service across the Commonwealth at the 2018 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Their stories of service were touching, uplifting, and an inspiration for all of us to do more for others. I encourage you to read more about these remarkable volunteers at VirginiaService.virginia.gov.

And yet, this amazing group of volunteers are just a fraction of the more than 2 million who serve annually in Virginia. Each day, individuals give their time and talents to make our communities safer, healthier and stronger. Whether it is the parents and grandparents volunteering in our

schools, community members collecting and donating food to our food banks, or busy professionals utilizing their skills to help individuals and organizations in times of need — volunteers are the force behind addressing our greatest challenges.

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, I would like to thank these fantastic volunteers. Thank you for caring. Thank you for committing. Thank you for understanding the power of service. We want you to know that we see you and we hear stories of how you are changing communities for the better. You provide hope to so many and inspire others to follow your lead to serve.

Jessica Bowser

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

Long Backups at Park Entrance

To the Editor:

With spring upon us, the weekend traffic problem at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive (entrance to Great Falls Park) is causing long backups from both directions on Georgetown Pike and also north

on Old Dominion Drive. The lack of turn lanes increases the congestion.

In the absence of physical changes to the intersection, there should be police presence during busy mid-day hours on weekends to direct traffic and not allow long backups when the Park's parking is full.

As Great Falls Park is a National Park, one would assume that the responsibility for traffic management would belong to the US Park Police. No private venue would be allowed to avoid responsibility if their venue created this kind of problem. The alternative to the Park Police is the Fairfax County

Police Department. In any event, mitigation of this problem belongs to one or more of our governmental entities.

The Park is a treasure and a wonderful part of our community. We have visitors from all around the area who very much appreciate and enjoy the

Park. Reasonable traffic management would make their experience a better one and improve the quality of life for those of us who use Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive for our normal weekend travels.

Peter Garahan

Great Falls

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers Needed for Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. At Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Greater Reston Art Center's (GRACE's) largest annual fundraiser. Draws up to 30,000 visitors and there is free garage parking all weekend. Over 500 volunteers are needed. Volunteers perform a variety of roles including setting up with the logistics crew, welcoming and booth sitting for participating artists as part of the Artist Hospitality entourage, welcoming visitors and accepting

donations for GRACE as a Festival Ambassador, or helping young artists with their creations in the Family Art Park. Visit restonarts.org/fineartsfestival.

The Herndon High School PTSA is in need of a treasurer, but anyone interested in serving on the board is welcome. The HHS PTSA works to provide connections between students, teacher and parents. They offer mini-grants to teachers, scholarships and achievement awards to students as well as appreciation events for staff. Email

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Reston
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COMMENTARY

The Other Branch of Government

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



Legislators who are in Richmond on April 13 for the Special Session to complete work on the biennial budget will interrupt their work on April 18 for the Constitutionally required Reconvened Session commonly referred to as the "veto session." In 1980 the State Constitution was amended to provide that on the sixth Wednesday after the adjournment of a regular session the General Assembly is to reconvene "for the purpose of considering bills which may have been returned by the Governor with recommendations for their amendment and bills and items of appropriation bills which may have been returned by the Governor with his objections." Prior to the establishment of a reconvened session, a Governor could veto bills without concern that the vetoes would be over-ridden.

Governor Terry McAuliffe set a record with nearly a hundred vetoes all of which were sustained by the General Assembly even if by the narrowest margin. Governor Ralph Northam has exercised his veto powers on eight measures that are highly unlikely to be challenged with the almost even distribution of partisan representation in both the House and Senate. A two-thirds vote is required to pass legislation without the Governor's approval. In the case of Governor McAuliffe and now Governor Northam, vetoes by the other branch of government, the executive branch, have kept the General Assembly from enacting some of the more divisive laws on social issues proposed by extremely conservative legislators.

Two of the bills Governor Northam vetoed related to voter registration records that would unnecessarily burden the registration and voting process under

guise of preventing fraud and abuse. Virginia has not had a problem with voting irregularities; the state's problem has been to get more people to vote since Virginia has among the lowest levels of participation in the nation. Efforts to make it easier to vote such as "no excuse" absentee voting have been defeated in the General Assembly.

The Governor vetoed three bills that would limit the powers of local government when the local governments are in the best position to know what would best serve the people of a locality. One bill would have prohibited local governments from requiring contractors to pay more than minimum wage for work for the locality and another would interfere on local governments establishing property tax rates for country clubs. A bill that would prohibit "sanctuary cities" of which there are none in Virginia was also vetoed.

The Governor vetoed a bill that would have prohibited state participation in adopting regulations on carbon dioxide cap-and-trade programs thereby limiting Virginia's ability to deal with climate change. He also vetoed a bill that would have allowed legislators to change legislative district lines between the federal census dates.

In considering bills passed by the legislature, all of which must be signed by the Governor to become law, the Governor can propose amendments. Of the dozens of amendments proposed by Governor Northam, most are technical corrections in language passed in the fast pace of the legislative session.

After the likely one-day Reconvened Session is adjourned, the General Assembly will return to the Special Session to complete the budget. I believe there will be good news to report on the budget very soon!

Registration Opens for Bike to Work Day 2018

On Friday, May 18 from 6:30-9:30 a.m., Comstock Partners and Reston Association will host more than 500 local commuters at the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station as part of the one of the nation's largest Bike to Work Day events, one organized at the regional level by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA).

The Reston pit stop will be one of 100 pit stops throughout the

District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia. All stops have the same goal according to event organizers: "to increase awareness and participation in bicycling as a method of transportation to work instead of driving alone."

Celebrating its 17th anniversary this year, Bike to Work Day is expected to once again break registration records as more and more commuters embrace bicycling as

a clean, fun, and healthy way to get to work.

The event page states: "Be one of the first 20,000 to register and attend this free event, then bike to your choice of 100 pit stops in D.C., MD, and VA and receive a free T-shirt, refreshments, and be entered into a raffle for a new bicycle." For more information and to register, visit www.biketoworkmetrodc.org

—MERCIA HOBSON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The fire was caused by an unattended charcoal grill located under the deck in the rear of the home.

Unattended Charcoal Grill Causes Reston House Fire

On Saturday, April 14 at 9:04 p.m., units were dispatched for a reported house fire in the 11900 block of Gray Squirrel Lane in the Reston section of Fairfax County.

According to Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department — units arrived on the scene of a two-story, single family house to find a significant volume of fire showing from the rear of the home on all three levels. Crews quickly used fire hose lines to knock the fire down from the outside. This was immediately followed by an interior attack to extinguish the fire.

Three occupants were home at time of the fire. The fire was discovered by a juvenile occu-

pant prior to the sounding of any smoke alarm.

All occupants safely evacuated the home prior to fire department arrival. There were no reported firefighter or civilian injuries.

Fire Investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and started under the deck in the rear of the home. The fire was caused by an unattended charcoal grill located under the deck in the rear of the home.

Two adults and one juvenile occupants were displaced as a result of the fire. Red Cross assistance was offered and declined by the occupants. Damages as a result of the fire are approximately \$202,500.



Damages as a result of the fire are approximately \$202,500.

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By night's end, with lofty goals set, \$444,175 had been raised for Cornerstones. (From left) Mark S. Ingraio, CCP, CAE, President & CEO Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Kerrie B. Wilson, CEO, Cornerstones, Sara Leonard, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Chair, Cornerstones Board of Directors, Charles Kapur, Access National Bank Chair, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Honoree), 2018 Best of Reston Co-Chair, Doug Bushée (2013 Honoree), Vice President, Sales Enablement, Xerox Corporation. 2018 Best of Reston Co-Chair.



Vade Bolton-Ann Rodriguez Legacy Award: Entrusting the Community's Future, Presented by (left) Casey Veatch (2015 Bolton-Rodriguez Award Recipient), Veatch Commercial Real Estate, (Back) Herb Williams-Baffoe (2017 Bolton Rodriguez Award Recipient), YMCA Fairfax County-Reston Honorees: South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry (from left) Amy Shaw, Abbe Pascal, Roberta Gosling and Andy Sigle.



Simon Fellows: William G. "Bill" Bouie (2013), Joseph L. Ritchey (2009), Vicky Wingert (2017), Lynn Lillenthal (2015), Beverly Cosham (2018), Charles A. "Chuck" Veatch (2010), Not pictured: Jim Cleveland (2011), Karen Cleveland (2011) and Priscilla Ames (2011) - deceased.



Honorees South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry Abbe Pascal with (left to right rear) Roberta Gosling and Andy Sigle, and Amy Shaw. Pascal shared that The Pantry had distributed 3,500 bags of food in one year.

The Cornerstones' of Community Honored at 2018 Best of Reston Awards

Individuals, organizations and businesses build a community and help raise funds to support the mission of Cornerstones.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The 27th Annual Cornerstones of our Community, Best of Reston Awards for Community Service, took place at the Hyatt Regency in Reston Town Center on April 12, 2018, just a few days before the start of National Volunteer Week.

The award gala and fundraiser was presented in partnership with Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. The two organizations created Best of Reston in 1997 to celebrate the individuals, businesses, and civic and community organizations that maintain the shared vision of a strong and dynamic community built on the guiding principles of Reston founder, Robert E. Simon.

Cornerstones is "a nonprofit organization, which serves more than 15,000 neighbors in need, helping them overcome tough economic times in an already high cost of living region.

Through advocacy and support services, Cornerstones connects families and individuals to the vital resources they need to build more stable and self-sufficient lives, including providing a comprehensive array of programs that solve urgent or on-going requirements of housing, child-care, food or financial assistance."

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce has been a catalyst for business growth and entrepreneurship by providing quality programs, education, connections and advocacy for their members and organizations in the Dulles Corridor, with more

than 600 members.

The much-anticipated gala and fundraising event was sold-out quickly. The event attracted a crowd of 640 guests who came together to honor and celebrate individuals, businesses, civic and community organizations whose selfless services and philanthropy had helped positively shape the Reston/Herndon area.

Tim Ward, pastor of the newly planted United Methodist Church, "Restoration," in Reston gave the invocation. Ward asked for a moment of silence and said, "We pray for those in great need. We come together as a larger community."

Sought-after singer, Beverly Cosham started the evening off with her rendition of "God Bless America." Later in the evening, Cosham was the recipient of the Robert E. Simon Lifetime Achievement Award.

Charles Kapu, Chair, Access National Bank spoke about the award. "It is a special award to those who continue to give back," Kapu said. The award recognizes past Best of Reston award winners known for their lifetime commitment to Reston values and for living the legacy of Bob Simon. "Cosham is a powerful presence in the arts," Kapu said. Laughing, he added that there was no end to Cosham giving back.

After receiving the recognition as one of the extraordinary lifetime contributors, going forward Cosham, like all other recipients of the Robert E. Simon Lifetime Achievement Award, will be known as one of the "Fellows."

Charlene Wheelless, Principal Vice President, Global Corporate Affairs, Bechtel, and Doug Bushee, Vice President, Sales



Reverend Tim Ward



Phil Tobey



Marybeth Haneline



U.S. Representative Gerry E. Connolly (D-11)



Terry Redican



Beverly Cosham



Jeff Bentley



Best of Reston Co-Chairs, Charlene Wheelless, Bechtel (2016 Best of Reston Honoree) and Doug Bushée, Xerox Corporation (2013 Best of Reston Honoree).



Leslie Kane, Honoree: Award presented by Rev. Tim Ward, Restoration Church, Visionary Partner.

Enablement, Xerox Corporation, co-chaired 2018 Best of Reston. Addressing the crowd, Wheelless said, "The work you're doing shows your commitment to the community."

U. S. Rep. Gerry E. Connolly, (D-11) shared that he had spent time working with the homeless. Connolly said, "There is nothing like seeing people that now have a home... Every human being is worth investing in; everybody is worth a helping hand."

In her closing remarks, Kerrie B. Wilson, CEO Cornerstones said, "We stand on the shoulders of Robert Simon. ... We are overwhelmed by the contributions of the community ... [and] we are excited about the next generation. ... When you think about investing in kids today, that's what it is all about." Last year Cornerstones served 15,000 people and that most were working, some two or more jobs, with many making less than \$25,000 for a family of four, Wilson said.

Cornerstones gives hope for the future, Wilson said. "We meet people where they are. We encourage them to come in from the cold. ... We can do this together."

As the awards presentation concluded, a large display check was brought forward. Total funds raised for the evening to benefit Cornerstones: \$444,147.

Honored at 2018 Best of Reston Awards

The following individuals and organizations received 2018 Best of Reston Awards:

♦ 2018 Best of Reston, Marybeth Haneline - Engineering Inclusion and Making an Impact. Haneline, once an engineer envisioned a different life, devoted to young people. She is now President of NOVA Labs, where its robotics program embraces young women, empowering them. "Her selfless efforts to build Reston's capacity to respect and love one another are core components of the giving life she has built." — Award Profile

♦ 2018 Best of Reston, Leslie Kane - Revealing the Beauty of Kindness. Kane, a Mary Kay representative takes her skills and products to women who do not have the financial means for makeovers or cosmetics, empowering them with confidence " — written in Award Profile.

♦ 2018 Best of Reston, Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation-Launching Young Lives. The Foundation was selected as an honoree based on its volunteers' community service hours including mentoring and outreach efforts. Among other acts of community support, NWFCU Foundation and NWFCU team raise money to fund college scholarships for students in financial need. "Some 26 scholarships of \$5,000 each annually close critical gaps for students in our region to continue their studies" — written in Award Profile. Northwest Federal recently made an annual sponsorship donation of \$15,000 to Cornerstones to be used for monthly lunches that will be prepared and served by credit union employees, transportation for a youth field trip, refreshing the overall appearance of the Embry Rucker Shelter, and other needs of the shelter.

♦ 2018 Best of Reston, Terry Redican - Reston's Coach for all Seasons: Coach "T" teaches more than fitness and team building, as he encourages his swimmers, flag football players, and soccer and basketball athletes. His young men and women learn "sportsmanship, commitment and the joy of achieving success with team effort." — Awards Profile.

♦ Andy Sigle - Support that Sings: Sigle volunteers across a diverse section of Reston organization and civic groups. From his service on the Reston Association Board to Financial Coach at Cornerstones to service on the Parent Teacher/Student Associations as well as singing with the Reston Chorale, Sigle learned early in life "It's vital to individuals and families to have other caring people in their communities to lift them up when life may be overwhelming." — Award Profile.

♦ 2018 Best of Reston was awarded to SoSi - Serving Those Who Serve, because of their work supporting veterans and military families making a positive difference by investing \$300,000 in building civic and non-profit partnerships. Their employees support non-English speakers, assist at Reston's Ethic's Day, and run holiday food, toy, and gift drives.

♦ The Vade Bolton-Ann Rodriguez Legacy Award: Entrusting the Community Future was awarded to South Lakes High School Parent/Teacher Student Association Food Pantry, Food from Heart to Heart. The pantry arose from mutual desires to assist SLHS students' families struggling with food insecurity and to do so in an anonymous dignified process. "The Pantry" solves the critical need by involving multiple partners in its multi-generational and multi-faceted approach.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. Meets Mondays, May through October, at Pavilion at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Free fitness classes presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. (No class on Memorial Day, May 28.) Call 571-267-5000 or visit crunchreston.com Facebook.com/CrunchReston.

"Into the Woods." Through April 21 at Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Multiple performances: Saturday, April 21, 2-3:30 p.m. Special Pre-Performance Experience for Young Children, Ages 3-7 from 1-1:45 p.m. Tickets: \$10/adult & \$5/child in advance online; \$15/adult & \$10/child at box office; Thursday, April 19, 7-9:45 p.m. (pizza night); Friday, April 20, 7-9:45 p.m.; and Saturday, April 21, 2-4:45 p.m.; Tickets: \$15/adult and \$10/student in advance online; \$20/adult & \$15/student at box office. Premium Seating Tickets: \$30/adult and \$20/student in advance online. Tickets at www.HerndonDrama.org.

Pet Supplies Drive. Through May 4, collection bins in building lobbies at Reston Town Center has teamed up with GoodDogz.org of Reston to collect supplies for organizations treating pets in need. Items such as dog beds, blankets, toys, grooming products, leashes, and crates can be donated in building lobby collection bins. Visit gooddogz.org.

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 whirlwind 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 ArtSpace Herndon. All levels welcome. Drop in and take a class. \$25 two week unlimited pass or drop-in available. Visit www.homegrownpoweryoga.com to sign up.

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.

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.

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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

R4 Collection Day. 1-4 p.m. Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Bring computers, components, electronics, cell phones, paper for shredding, compact fluorescent bulbs, eyeglasses, and hearing aids. Participating organizations include Secured Shred, Turtle Wings, and

A Show with a Big Heart

'Once Upon a Mattress' at NextStop: A musical comedy for the entire family.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A light-hearted retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen classic fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea" is in store for the entire family at NextStop Theatre.

The show is called "Once Upon a Mattress" and it has unexpected twists that refresh the class tale, including music and dancing.

"Our 'by kids, for kids' productions have become a really amazing holiday tradition and great successes," said Evan Hoffmann, NextStop's producing artistic director.

"We decided that we wanted to expand that program into the spring." "Once Upon a Mattress" is the spring production.

"Once Upon a Mattress" is a classic show with many wonderful opportunities to feature our young performers," added Hoffmann.

more. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Youth Music Academy Performance. 7-8 p.m. at Reston Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Enjoy a free orchestra performance by home-school students presented by the Youth Music Academy of Patrick Henry College. Visit www.phc.edu/youth-music-academy.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

Herndon Farmers Market. Open Thursdays, through Nov. 8, 8 a.m.-noon at 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Fairfax County Park Authority markets are strictly producer-only meaning that vendors must grow or make from scratch everything they bring to market.

Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Cabaret Concert. 2:15 p.m. at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Free.

A celebrated cabaret singer in the Washington area, Beverly Cosham will perform songs from the Great American Songbook and other favorites. Visit the website at olli.gmu.edu or call 703-503-3384.

Entry Deadline. Arts Herndon's Tech Arts Competition and Young Artists Scholarships applications are now open. These programs are available to young artists in the area to help support their artistic endeavors! All entries must be submitted on the



Jen Bevan, who plays Queen Agrava in NextStop's "Once Upon a Mattress."



Faith Hargadon, who plays Winifred in NextStop's "Once Upon a Mattress."



Logan Wanger, who plays Sir Harry in NextStop's "Once Upon a Mattress."

Where and When

NextStop Theatre presents "Once Upon a Mattress" performing at 269 Sunset Park Drive, (Inside the Sunset Business Park), Herndon. Performances, Friday, April 27 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 28 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Sunday April 29 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Friday, May 4 at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 5 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets: \$25. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org. **Note:** "Once Upon a Mattress" is appropriate for all ages. All those entering the theatre must have a ticket, regardless of age.

"The story will appeal to kids, parents, and even grandparents." This production has a cast of two dozen young performers working alongside artists from the professional NextStop company.

Kevin Place directs "Once Upon a Mattress." Place said, "The play begins with a kingdom on hold: the queen, dominating the mute king, refuses to let her son marry unless the inquiring princess passes a series of impossible tests. So that he can marry his lady love, young knight Sir Harry brings a different kind of princess; this one nicknamed Fred (from Winifred),

who scandalizes and excites the young people of the court."

Surprising developments then transform the original "The Princess and the Pea" for contemporary audiences.

"Once Upon a Mattress" feels incredibly relevant and relatable in the way that it challenges stereotypes of how young people should behave based on their gender and social status," said Place.

Professional actor Jen Bevan plays Queen Agrava. "I didn't hesitate at all to say 'yes' when asked to be part of the production.

I always want to imagine, so I can't think of a better cast to keep my dreams alive, while helping kids along the same path I trod years ago."

Faith Hargadon, portraying Winifred (nicknamed Fred) said, "Once Upon a Mattress" is enjoyable for people of all ages. It has parts that both children and adults will appreciate. It is also a super hilarious, fun and exciting show, with fantastic music and an incredible story."

Logan Wagner, who plays Sir Harry said "the choreography is amazing, the vocals are spectacular, and the acting is outstanding.

If you want to come see a show that is full of comedy, adventure, and maybe even some drama, then "Once Upon a Mattress" is for you."

FCPS server and a completed entry form delivered to the Fairfax County Public School Fine Arts Office by April 19, 2018. Visit artspaceherndon.org to apply.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

11th Annual Empty Bowls. 5:30-8 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. For a small donation, guests receive a supper of soup, bread, beverage, and dessert, as well as a handmade pottery bowl to keep as a reminder that there are those in our community with empty bowls. Hosted by The Giving Circle of HOPE. \$25 for adults in advance/\$30 adults at the door/\$15 for children under 12. Visit www.givingcircleofhope.org.

Spring Wellness Evening. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Join three local women for an evening of meditation, morning ritual, and nutrition: Erin Williams, (SLHS '87, UVA '91), and Francie Palmer, (SLHS '87, UVA Med '96), and Ashley Brown (UVA '90). Enjoy samples of nutritious food prepared by Francie, practice meditation with Erin, and receive a copy of Ashley's new book: A Beautiful Morning: How a Morning Ritual Can Feed Your Soul and Transform Your Life. \$60 Email Erin Williams: joydetectives@gmail.com

Jazz Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at United

Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Featuring Swing Dixie, which offers New Orleans Dixieland music and has been entertaining audiences in the D.C. area since 1990. Free. Visit ucpreston.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Environmental Events. 8 a.m.-noon at Runnymede Park, 195 Herndon Parkway between Elden and Queens Row streets and Bready Park Pavilion, 814 Ferndale Ave. Help clean-up Runnymede Park, Sugarland Run watershed, and other park and stream locations. Choose between doing a stream clean-up and/or native plant garden work. There will be a free secure document shred truck at Runnymede Park from 9 a.m.-noon. An Earth Day and Arbor Day Ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Bready Park Pavilion. Sign-up online at tinyurl.com/HerndonCleanup2018 or contact John Dudzinsky at 703-435-6800, x 2014 or by email john.dudzinsky@herndon-va.gov. Visit herndon-va.gov, or call 703-787-7300.

Masonic Lodge Open House. 9 a.m.-noon at Herndon Masonic Lodge, 820 Elden St., Herndon. Addison Hurst will provide a view of U.S. history through the aid of historical weaponry used throughout the years. Hurst is a noted collector and authority on firearms. The open

house and presentation are free to the public. Donations accepted for breakfast. Visit herndonlodge264.org/2018/04/open-house/.

Reston Farmers Market. Open Saturdays, through Dec. 1, 8 a.m.-noon at 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Fairfax County Park Authority markets are strictly producer-only meaning that vendors must grow or make from scratch everything they bring to market. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Crys Matthews Blues Live. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Matthews blends Americana, folk, jazz, blues, bluegrass and funk into bold, complex performances. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 23

Little Hands on the Farm. 9:45-10:30 a.m. at Kidwell Barn Classroom at Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. This program is designed for children ages 2-5 to provide a glimpse of farm life through stories, crafts and games. Children ages 3-5 meets from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Pre-paid reservations are required. The cost is \$8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Official Ribbon-Cutting at the Aperture Grand Opening Celebration. From left — Casey Veatch, Veatch Commercial Real Estate; Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill); Chuck Veatch, The Charles A. Veatch Co., joint venture developer of Aperture; Tom Bozzuto, Chairman, The Bozzuto Group; Toby Bozzuto, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Bozzuto Group; Mike Henehan, Senior Vice President, Managing Director for Bozzuto Development Company. Aperture Apartments, a six-story, 421-unit luxury building in Reston is across from the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station.

Aperture at Reston Station Holds Grand Opening Ceremony and Celebration

The Grand Opening ceremony and celebration for Reston's newest apartment community, Aperture at Reston Station, was held on April 5. Ribbon-cutting and VIP reception opened the event, followed by a celebratory party. The event was attended by more than 300 guests, including Aperture developers, The Bozzuto Group and Chuck Veatch, local dignitaries, key project partners, Aperture residents and their guests. Aperture is located across from the Metrorail entrance at 11410 Reston Station Blvd.

The ceremony featured remarks from: Mike Henehan, Senior Vice President, Managing Director for Bozzuto Development Company; Chuck Veatch,

The Charles A. Veatch Co., joint venture developer of Aperture; Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill District); Toby Bozzuto, President and CEO, The Bozzuto Group, and Tom Bozzuto, Chairman, The Bozzuto Group.

The celebration included a live band, flavorful spreads from local restaurants and caterers, specialty cocktails, a popular "Selfie Station" featuring Nature's Best Photography, and tours of the Aperture's amenities and model units.

Aperture is located at 11410 Reston Station Blvd. For more information or a tour visit LiveAperture.com/.



Enjoying an Afternoon of Jazz

National Council of Negro Women, Reston-Dulles Section hosted an Afternoon of Jazz performances by the Earl Ivey Ensemble and an inspirational spoken word given by local artist Cheryl Robinson. Door prizes and silent auction items were provided by Bertucci's, Stones Cove Kitbar, Bluemont Winery, Coopers Hawk-Reston, Giant Food, Bowl America, and Woolly Mammoth Theater, among others. Catering for the event was provided by Atrium Catering at the ASCE-Bechtel Conference Center.



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NEWS

STEM Symposium Held in Herndon

The event
attracted
nearly 4,000
participants.

On Saturday, April 14, WashingtonExec hosted its fifth annual K-12 STEM Symposium at The Nysmith School in Herndon. The event attracted nearly 4,000 students, parents, industry leaders, government officials, non-profit executives and educators.

Attendees enjoyed Altamira's "Girls in STEM" interactive wing, Vencore's flight simulator and a variety of other interactive exhibits. Among the biggest hits were the virtual reality showcase, 3D printers and slime creation stations. In addition to the displays, attendees had the opportunity to hear from former NASA astronaut Cady Coleman, NASA Chief Information Officer (CIO) Renee Wynn and other STEM Superheroes.

New to the Symposium's programming this year, WashingtonExec presented several awards. The STEM Rising Star award was presented to Kavya Koppurapu and Kirthi Kumar, students at Thomas Jefferson High



Student is seen engrossed with Vencore's flight simulator at WashingtonExec's 5th Annual K-12 STEM Symposium.

School for Science & Technology. Anne Swanson, U.S. education and workforce development coordinator at CGI Federal was named Most Inspiring STEM Executive of 2018. Boolean Girls, a non profit dedicated to educating girls to code, build, invent and animate took home STEM Non-Profit of the Year, while Business Women's Giving Circle and Northrop Grumman were awarded Best STEM-Supporting Businesses of the Year.

This year's WashingtonExec K-12 STEM Symposium brought together key players in the STEM field to enthrall students with the science and technology they learn in their classrooms. Elevating STEM education through events like WashingtonExec's K-12 STEM Symposium spurs the national conversation among leaders, parents and students about STEM's increasing importance to the future.



Ed Swallow, K-12 STEM Symposium Chairman and SVP, Civil Systems Group, The Aerospace Corporation, moderates panel on what it takes to be a Superhero in STEM with Kristy Clark (Chief Engineer, Vencore), Renee Wynn (CIO, NASA), and Ted Davies (CEO, Altamira).

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 4

HerndonHSPTSA.Treasurer@gmail.com to learn more.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in six Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaalrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Volunteer 'Victims' Needed. Virginia Task Force 1 (VA-TF1) is holding a full scale exercise and needs volunteers to act as victims in need of rescue. The exercise will take place from the evening of Monday, April 23 through afternoon of Thursday, April 26. A minimum shift of six hours is expected, overnight volunteers are especially needed. "Victims" will need to be able to crawl in and out of rubble piles, capable of sitting or lying in place for extended periods of time, and not mind getting dirty. Contact Christopher Yorty at christopher.yorty@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Vote on Budget on May 1

FROM PAGE 3

county's fast developing areas," said Niedzielski-Eichner.

"As one who was on the front lines advocating for passage of the Meals Tax, I find this reality ironic in light of the significant voices arguing against the meals tax due to its regressivity. Since each one percent of the property tax rate is projected to generate approximately \$25 million in revenue, the proposed 2.5 cent increase in the real estate tax rate will generate about \$62.5 million. The meals tax was projected to generate a \$100 million per annum, with almost a third of this revenue, \$28 million, to be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP expressed concern that the county is underfunding services to low income families, including housing and Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap [of not having access to PreK education] eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years."

Annan asked the supervisors to fund an outside study of racial disparities in police use of force.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county," Annan said.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

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If Only It Were That Simple



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I immerse you regular readers in the excruciating details of my cancer-affected life, rarely do I bombard unsuspecting conversationalists who unknowingly yet sincerely wander into territory with which many of you are intimately detailed. Not that I don't have stories to tell, and/or perhaps even unsolicited advice to offer; generally speaking, if I can avoid it, I don't want to drag the conversation into a cancer-centric black hole.

It's not because I'm uncomfortable talking about cancer, or that I would feel it an inappropriate invasion of my privacy, or that I would feel the need to blather on non-stop. Hardly. But I would see it as the end of an innocent inquiry undone that then takes on a more empathetic, sympathetic and possibly even pathetic tone, some of which might make me uncomfortable.

The reason being: part of what feeds my self-preservation and sense of well-being is reading and reacting to the feedback I receive from others when the subject matter turns to cancer, however well-meaning their intentions may have been.

Sometimes the reactions I get aren't helpful ("Tell me Ken, how's it feel to know you're going to die?"). Sometimes, I find myself rationalizing, explaining and revisiting issues and experiences more helpful and of interest to the party that asked the question rather than to yours truly who's now having to answer the question. Not that I don't want to be helpful or have difficulty empathizing; nothing could be further from the truth.

It's more that I don't want to see their expressions/hear their apologies when their innocent question ("So what do you do?") elicits an extremely unexpected answer. "Not too much. I have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer."

Then I have to decide how I involved I want to get them in my life. Since I'd just as soon not get them involved for all the reasons I've outlined, usually I deflect their questions and/or redirect them away from me and back to them. I don't exactly shut them down. It's more like a gentle closing. I'm not rude or the least bit off-putting. I'm more like a traffic cop re-routing emotions to avoid any accidents - for all parties engaged.

My experience has been that responding to an innocent question with a "I have terminal-cancer"-type bombshell tends to take the conversation in an entirely different direction than likely intended. The seriousness of my response/situation and the emotions - maybe even memories it stirs in the person who asked the question, can hijack an evening and cause at least for a few minutes anyway, a rather dreary dynamic. All of which I don't want to happen and more so, don't need to happen. As a cancer patient, I don't need dreary. I don't need pity. I don't need negativity. I need humor. I need encouragement and compliments. I need to be made to feel, as Tony the Tiger might say: "Not just good, but GREAT!"

When I assess my nine-plus years post-diagnosis; having lived now years beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I can't quite attribute my amazing good fortune to anything in particular. However, I will admit to this: trying not think about my diagnosis/prognosis too much, trying to remain positive, trying to be funny and self-effacing, and trying to avoid people and situations where I might feel bad, are all components. Are they working to keep me alive more than the medicine, my pills and my miscellaneous non-Western alternatives are?

Yet another question or two I'd rather not answer.

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



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

People sit back and enjoy the sun and a drink at the Lake Anne Brewery during the 2018 Founder's Day Celebration in Reston.

So Many Ways to Celebrate Founder's Day 2018

Reston turns out to live, work and play in the sun.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fifty-four years ago, there was no Lake Anne and no Reston Town Center. No shopping and no villages. Yet, today there is a vibrant, diversified, and welcoming community. It is still thriving, and one can see the seven guiding principles of Founder Robert E. Simon in action: leisure time, housing for all, diversity, a live-work-and-play community, cultural and recreational amenities, beauty, and financial success.

On Saturday, April 14, the citizens of Reston turned out for the 2018 Founder's Day Celebration at Lake Anne Plaza. The day celebrated the 54th Anniversary of Reston's founding by Robert E. Simon Jr. Historically, Founder's Day is celebrated on a Saturday on or around Founder Robert E. Simon's birthday, April 10.

A full day of scheduled events began with musical performances and remarks by elected officials and well-known community members. Later in the afternoon, people strolled the public art walk around Lake Anne led by art historian Phoebe Avery.

In the community center, oral histories were being recorded, so those new to Reston would be able to learn how the schools, churches, and communities



Children enjoy the afternoon watching sailboats and time go by, during the 2018 Founder's Day Celebration at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston.

rose up and took form.

In the Jo Ann Rose Gallery, patrons heard Reston authors LaVerne Gill, Donna Andrews and Samantha Mina tell about their books and offered to sign copies.

As the event wound down, there was still plenty to do including the viewing of a short film about Robert E. Simon. It included interview footage with him around Reston taken before he died in 2015. For the children, there were painted rock hunts, crafts and activities, face painting and a moon bounce.

But perhaps what people seem to gravitate to most was the lake. There, a dozen or so radio-controlled model sailboats skimmed the water's surface, racing one another. Children and families sat on the boardwalk enjoying the cool mist blowing from the fountain. Others sat outside at Lake Anne Brew House, enjoying a drink and watching the day slip by.



Music is always good on a beautiful afternoon at Lake Anne, especially on Founder's Day.

VIEWPOINTS

What are your thoughts on Founder's Day?

PHOTOS BY
MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Sebila Raubacher of Reston with her mother, Grisa Rustempasic.

"I'm here with my mother. My son Ben is in the chorus at Terraset Elementary School. He's performing today for Founder's Day. I'm from Phoenix. This is the first time I'm going to hear him sing."



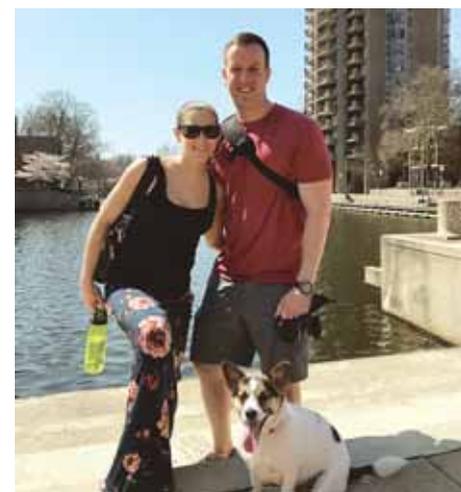
Johnathan Andert, Terraset Chorus Co-Director stands with Ben Raubacher of Terraset Elementary School Chorus

"It was an honor to be invited to have the fifth and sixth graders from Terraset perform today at Founder's Day as they are the future of this bright community."



Laurie and Matt Flood of Herndon with Daily, the Dog

"We were looking up events online and came here on a walk for Founder's Day. We wanted to be outside."



Bonnie Haukness, Board Member Reston Historic Trust.

"We moved here when I was five. The lake was being filled. They brought pump trucks daily because the tributaries did not feed fast enough. My brother and I spent hours a day on the lake whether on the ice or swimming. My father used to swim to the dam and back."

—MERCIA HOBSON

