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PAGE. 2

Reston CONNECTION

(From left) Authors Orly Konig of Gaithersburg, and Erika Marks of Hagerstown share secrets about writing their books during a very special post-Valentine's "Galentine's Party" produced and hosted by Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center to benefit Laurel Learning Center, Lake Anne Reston, a child care center operated by Cornerstones.

Scrawl Books Supports Learning

NEWS, PAGE 5

Tolls Off the Table For Area Parkways
NEWS, PAGE 3

Lady Seahawks Win Region Title, Again
SPORTS, PAGE 8

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OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

Black History Month: A Look at African American Art

Promoting and preserving a part of history.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Despite his predilection for visual arts, Allen Carter, an African American boy growing up in pre-civil rights era Arlington, might not have been granted entrance into some the nation's museums due to segregation. Still, he persisted, and years later he became a lauded artist, distinguished teacher and mentor to underprivileged children. And in February — African American History Month — his work is being shown in an exhibit, "Big Al Carter: A Retrospective," at the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art. While his work is part of the permanent collections of both the Smithsonian Institution and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, this is the first exhibit of Carter's work in the Washington, D.C area since his death in 2008.

"Big Al's family has given us an incredible gift by sharing his art, allowing us to continue to reflect on his life, his art and his message for future generations," said Marty Schnider, president of Fred Schnider Investment Group and founder of Fred Schnider Gallery of Art.

As a painter, printmaker, sculptor and muralist, Carter, also known as "Big Al" drew inspiration from his life experiences,

art history and everyday life. He believed that his life's purpose was to use art to heal. "Art is my emotion. Art is my memories. Art is my life. I create the essence," he once said.

"He paints poor people, he paints people who are fishing or people who are having dinner at the table ... his work is very vast," said Carter's daughter, Cecilia Carter.

Carter's exhibit is particularly noteworthy to some African-American art historians who point to a recent study showing that just 2.4 percent of all acquisitions and gifts and 7.6 percent of all exhibitions at 30 prominent American museums have been of work by African American artists. The recent Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Art Museum Staff Demographic Survey of 181 art museums in North America found that African Americans are greatly under-represented in mainstream art museums as directors, curators, conservators and educators. Those who study African American art say that solving this dilemma requires a year-round approach.

"We can't just focus on it during Black History Month," said African American art historian Crystal Johnson, Ph.D. "These two statistics go to hand-in-hand and prove what we already know. We need more African American students to explore their ar-



President of Fred Schnider Investment Group, LLC and Founder of the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art, Marty Schnider with Allen "Big Al" Carter's daughters, Cecilia Carter (left) and Flora O. Stone (right)

tistic talents and we need more students to take chance on a non-mainstream career and pursue jobs in museum administration. In order to make any changes, we need to have a seat at the table."

One such aspiring decision maker is recent a George Mason University graduate who landed a position as the co-curator of an exhibit at Howard University. "I'd worked with an exhibition, but I've never had the chance to curate before. I was excited and

nervous," said Kourtney Riles of the exhibit called, "An Examination of Feminist(s) Subjectivity in Modern and Contemporary African American Art."

Art plays a vital, but often overlooked role in African American history, not just during Black History Month, but all year long, advises Angela Black, who has taught art history. "Art is a way of preserving our history," she said. "It tells our story and we need more professionally trained artists who can do that."

Carter's exhibit, which features rarely seen artwork from his daughters' private collection, runs through March 3 at the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art, 888 N. Quincy Street, Arlington. Several pieces will be available for sale.

"The exhibit and his work reflect everything that he's been through, what he's seen, and what other people have been through and seen," said Big Al's daughter Flora O. Stone, Carter's daughter.

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Tolls Off the Table for Area Parkways

Public opposes Express Toll Lanes on Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) planner Thomas Burke told the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee that “tolls were not included in the strategies under consideration” as improvements to the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways at their meeting on Feb. 12 at the Government Center.

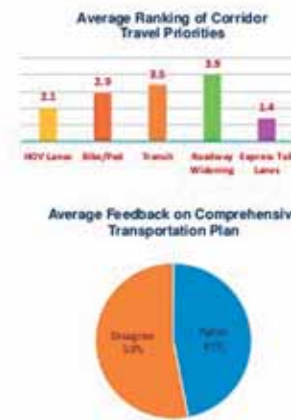
Burke was there to update the committee on the progress being made by FCDOT and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on the “Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study” of the two major thoroughfares. The multimodal corridor study spans the often-congested 31 miles from Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) in the north, to Route 1 (Richmond Highway) in the south and includes 17 interchanges and 83 intersections.

FCDOT is leading the long-range aspect of the study, reviewing today’s deficiencies along the network and projecting future needs in order to make recommendations for improvements for 2040 and beyond. VDOT, in conjunction with the county, conducted an Existing Conditions study in 2017, developing more than 350 recommendations for immediate or near-term improvements to the roadways. To date, said Burke, 49 of those recommendations have been implemented. Still in the works for VDOT is a planned widening of a section of the Fairfax County Parkway from Route 29 to Route 123, including the interchange at Popes Head Road and Shirley Gate Road extension.

In October of 2018, FCDOT held three public outreach meetings to inform the com-



Public Outreach Summary “Fall 2018”



FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation’s Thomas Burke presented an update on the study of the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways which included a summary of the public’s feedback the department received after a series of outreach meetings last October. A number of proposals met with public approval, however the notion of adding Express Toll Lanes to either roadway received opposition.

munity of the project and to solicit public feedback before developing recommendations.

Some of the questions being posed included:

- ❖ How transit should be integrated into the corridor
- ❖ Addition of, or improvements to, interchanges and intersections
- ❖ Bicycle/pedestrian considerations
- ❖ Possible implementation of Toll and/or HOV lanes

At the meetings, attendees were invited to participate in several interactive exercises to offer their own suggestions. Comments sheets were also made available and, in addition, project managers produced a 45-

day on-line survey and commentary forum that gave participants the opportunity to “plan” various segments of the parkways, or simply leave written comments as they wished.

The number of respondents exceeded their expectations.

“We were thinking maybe 3 or 4 thousand would participate,” admitted Burke, judging by the response to previous on-line transportation-related surveys. Instead, a total of 15,150 responses were recorded via the online survey, with 108 more responses received via emails, the website comment form and to district offices. Another 71 comments were recorded on the project’s Facebook page.

FCDOT and the project planners were pleased that their efforts to engage the public through numerous methods, including social media, resulted in “so many voices being heard.”

Burke summarized the responses for the committee. While HOV lanes were generally ranked below road widening and addition of transit options, the idea of adding toll lanes to any segment of either parkway was met with significant opposition.

FCDOT got the message. None of the preliminary strategies under review will include toll lanes as an option, although HOV-2 lanes, possibly just at certain junctures, are still being considered.

Burke’s presentation was met with appreciation for the work already done and still to come. Supervisors John Cook (Braddock) and Pat Herrity (Springfield) however, cautioned that they would like to see any strategies for improvements take a “more regional outlook” before recommendations are developed, with Cook asking “how do these concepts affect others roads in the region?”

Supervisor McKay (Lee) also asked that the FCDOT team keep up communications with the county’s delegates in Richmond, in light of upcoming legislation that could affect the project.

Burke says there will be more public outreach events in the next few weeks to report on the survey results to the community and gather additional feedback before further recommendations are brought before the committee and the full Board of Supervisors.

The update presentation, as well as history and additional information, are available on the county’s website.

Fairfax Adult Softball Holds Record-setting Fundraiser

More than 250 participants, friends and long-time supporters of Fairfax Adult Softball, Inc. (FAS) united together on Sunday, Jan. 27 for the 19th Annual Benefit Bowling Tournament to raise funds for INOVA Children’s Hospital and Fairfax County Park Authority field improvements. The event took place at the Falls Church Bowl America and grossed more than \$22,000 making it the most successful event in its 19 year history. In fact, this is the fourth straight year that the fundraising record was broken.

“Even though we sold out in just two short weeks with several teams on the waiting list, with the Government being shut down, I wasn’t sure what to expect at this year’s event,” said FAS Program and Media Manager, Becca Frece. “We managed to raise more funds than any year in the event’s history which speaks volumes for the amazing people involved in the event. We are beyond grate-

ful and are very excited to be able to donate to INOVA Children’s Hospital.”

“INOVA relies on community support to provide world-class care to Northern Virginia’s children and their families,” said Kristin McArthur, Director of Leadership Giving. “We are grateful for the generous gift from the members of the Fairfax Adult Softball league. The gift is already having an impact on our youngest patients and we look forward to partnering on more events in the future,” McArthur said.

FAS softball offers play for adult men and women in a number of different leagues across Fairfax County: Men, Women, Coed, Modified Coed, Social Coed, Fast Pitch, Men’s

35+, Men’s 50+ and Church. Registration is currently open for 2019 Spring Season for both team and individual registration. The deadline for applications and payment is March 1, 2019. Visit and register online at: www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Benefit Bowling Tournament raised more than \$22,000 making it the most successful event in its 19 year history.

OPINION

A Historic Session

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

As you read this column the Virginia General Assembly will be nearing its adjournment *sine die* for the 400th year of its existence, having first met in the church on Jamestowne Island in 1619. During this commemorative year there will be many opportunities to learn more about Virginia and to reflect on how its history influences it to today even in the current legislative session and in what on another occasion was referred to as its "recent unpleasanties."

That first session of what became known a century and a half later as the General Assembly was composed of a representative of the 22 plantations that had sprung up along the major rivers of the state as there were no local gov-

ernment, political boundaries, or transportation networks in existence. The representatives were all white males who were land owners. African Americans had to wait for the outcome of the Civil War and women the twentieth century before they became part of the electorate. While the right to vote has begrudgingly expanded over time there continues to be a resistance to making it easier to vote. In the current session there were proposals to allow people to vote early or vote absentee without an excuse and to make election day a holiday for the convenience of voters, but it does not appear that any will become law. Establishing a fair way to draw legislative boundaries has been hotly debated, but the decision to establish an independent redistricting commission will await the



closing hours of the session.

Slaves were brought to the colony of Virginia in 1619 to work the tobacco fields that were the mainstay of the colony's economy. They had none of the rights that Englishmen claimed and beginning in the 1640s were subjected to "slave codes" that defined them as property to be bought and sold with no access to learning to read and write or to move about freely. After the Civil War these restrictive laws became the Jim Crow laws that continued to limit the rights of black people who were kept in line by the Ku Klux Klan and by public lynchings. White supremacy reigned with black-face entertainment intended to degrade black people through crude humor. Happenings during this legislative session showed

how little we have progressed on issues of human rights and respect, but there is hope. The reminder to the Governor of his racist past will make him an even more enlightened person who if he continues can provide important leadership to dismantling racism in the state. The incredible people of color who were elected to the House of Delegates in the last election bring strong voices to the need for greater equity and justice in the Commonwealth. Some limited reforms that will help establish equity and remove racism in the criminal justice system are on their way to passage. Women first came to the Virginia colony in 1619. While rights of women have expanded slowly over the centuries, having Virginia ratify the Equal Rights Amendment is still in doubt. May the lessons of this historic legislative session move us forward in future years.

To check on the fate of specific bills, go to <http://lis.virginia.gov>.

Surging Newcomers for Supervisors, School Board, Not Legislature

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

A few days ago, I attended a meeting of the Hunter Mill District Democratic Committee, something I had not done for quite a while. What particularly interested me was the prospect of seeing, meeting some of the early candidates for the 2019 Elections. With a little luck I thought I might even invite a couple of them to be guests on Reston Impact (Sundays at 8 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on Comcast 28 and Verizon 1980!) in the weeks ahead.

Up for election this year in our area are: State Senators and Delegates, Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney, County Sheriff, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, 9 District Supervisors, 9 District School Board members, 3 At-Large School Board members, and 3 Soil and Water District Directors. (For today, I will not address the S & W Directors.)

The General Assembly is in session, so our State Senator Janet Howell and Delegate Ken Plum did not attend the Wednesday meeting. So far, they are unopposed. Although competition is good and healthy, I suspect both will remain unopposed. Steve Descano, an impressive young candidate for Commonwealth Attorney opposing 35-year, underwhelming incumbent

Ray Morrogh, was present and touting former Gov. Terry McAuliffe's hearty endorsement.

Also present were two of four running to replace retiring consensus master Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova—two-term School Board Member Ryan McElveen and newcomer local Tim Chapman. I hope to interview both. Heir apparent Supervisor Jeff McKay was absent as was newcomer Alicia Pierhopes.

All 4 would-be Cathy Hudgins successors were present: Walter Alcorn, a long-time Hudgins supporter and 16-year appointee to the County Planning Commission; attorney and promising activist progressive Laurie Dodd; Shyamali Hauth, former US Air Force officer and member of various Democratic committees; and Parker Messick, youngest of all, with some campaign experience and a promising future. Note: I am aware of a couple of other interesting prospects who have not yet stepped forward, but could surprise me by jumping in.

Speaking of surprises, a third candidate threw his hat in the ring Wednesday evening seeking the Democratic endorsement for the non-partisan election to Hunter



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Mill District seat on the Board of the Fairfax County Public Schools. (The seat is being vacated by one of my favorites, Pat Hynes.) The newcomer also formally applied to join the Party. He is Andy Sigle, Lake Anne Brew House bartender and current Reston Association Board President, stepping down after just one year. As late as Wednesday afternoon word was circulating that Sigle wanted to run for Supervisor. The other candidate seeking the Democratic endorsement is Melanie Meren, an experienced professional in Elementary and Secondary Education policy. The third candidate for the Hunter Mill District seat on the School Board is Laura Ramirez Drain who is

seeking the Republican Party endorsement in the nonpartisan race. Ms. Drain founded and hosts Café Latino TV, and is a community activist in area business and charitable organizations.

Why, you might ask, am I so belatedly mentioning a Republican candidate for one of these Hunter Mill District/Reston area offices? The answer is that Ms. Drain is to date the only announced Republican candidate for any of the offices discussed.

Is this a prelude to a very good year for Democrats? Perhaps. But my sample is small and this is, after all, Reston and Hunter Mill, hardly Republican strongholds.

However, I strongly believe it is fair to say that the one good thing the current President has accomplished, in the longest two years I can remember, is energizing Democrats to rise up and fight in Virginia and around the country.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Scrawl Books Supports Learning

Reston bookstore hosts benefit for Laurel Learning Center operated by Cornerstones.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Scrawl Books in Reston Town Center is known for offering a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children. The store frequently hosts book clubs, book launches and author presentations. On Feb. 17, the indie bookstore hosted a very special post-Valentine's "Galentine's Party" to benefit Laurel Learning Center operated by Cornerstones.

Book store owner, Rachel Woods said, "We've suggested a \$10 donation at the door. We also have a Blind Date with a Book (event), complimentary copies provided to us by the publisher." Guests choose a wrapped book based solely on the genre written on the cover. "All monies collected help purchase books for the children at Cornerstones' Laurel Learning Center," Woods said.

Courtney Park Jamborsky, Cornerstones, Laurel Learning Center Director was on hand for the evening festivities. "Cornerstones, Laurel Learning Center (LLC) was invited to this event to support our child development center located at Lake Anne, Reston. LLC teaches, nurtures and loves 130 children, infants through twelve years of age, from low to moderate income families in the area. One of the greatest things we can do for the children is to give them a love of reading." The two featured Maryland authors, Orly Konig of Gaithersburg, and Erika Marks of

Hagerstown provided book lovers the opportunity to chat one on one with them about books, writing inspiration and life. Konig penned the five star Amazon reviewed novel, "Carousel Beach." In a synopsis of the fiction, Good Reads states, "... (it) is a tender and heartfelt novel that explores loss, the magic of childhood, and the possibility of second chances." Marks is the author of "The Guest House," a read Kirkus review says, "With its smoothly written, languid style, the book explores young love, social strata and releasing the bonds of the past." Book lover, Peter Almquist of Arlington appeared pleased to be at the benefit "Indie Bookstores such as Scrawl provide great opportunity to meet the authors." Earlier in the evening, Orly spoke about her writing experience. "For me, writing is the best therapy. I'm an introvert. I write to sort through what I am feeling. I can make my characters have experiences and expressive thoughts that I'd like to express." Marks shared a different perspective, how she sets up her writing experience. She described herself as a "very ritualistic writer." "I make sure to turn on the Pandora music channel, only instrumental. I have a Golden Girl coaster, and I use the same coffee cup. I always work at the same little table. I cannot work in public," Marks said. Chris Hauth of Reston looked over the books with his wife Shyamali and friends. "Wonderful books like these are exactly what Scrawl Books is known for supporting, and I'm excited to read both books," he said.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Marty and Peter Almquist of Arlington, Shyamali Hauth of Reston, Courtney Park Jamborsky of Reston, Melva Bentley Ross of Apopka, Fla. and Chris Hauth of Reston check out the featured novels at Scrawl Books during its post-Valentine's "Galentine's Party" to benefit Laurel Learning Center operated by Cornerstones.



Rachel Woods, owner of Scrawl Books in Reston Town Center greets book lovers as they arrive for "Galentine's Party" to benefit Laurel Learning Center operated by Cornerstones.

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Announcements

Legals

ABC LICENSE

FRC Balance LLC trading as True Food Kitchen, 11901 Democracy Drive, Reston, Fairfax County, Virginia 20190-5662. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Allison Nicole Schuller, CFO authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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

Announcements

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Go on a "Blind Date" for Charity.

At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Take a chance this February and let Scrawl set you up – sight unseen – with a great read. Get a few hints and a brief description of what might be hidden inside. Proceeds from sales of "Blind Date" books will benefit local schools and pre-k programs. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

Audubon Photography Awards Show.

Through Feb. 27, Mondays, Wednesdays-Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Sundays 1-4 p.m. at Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. The winning photographers and their photographs were selected from more than 8,000 entries submitted by photographers from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 10 Canadian provinces. This year's photographs celebrate the splendor of many bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Call 703-476-9689 or email naturecenter@reston.org.

Exhibition: "For the Love of Art."

Through Feb. 28 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Members of the League of Reston Artists display paintings, drawings, mixed media, photographs and two-dimensional works suitable for wall hanging. This show is free and open to the public during the center's regular operating hours. Kathleen Best Gillman judges the show. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

Journeys to Reston. 7-9 p.m. at Jo Ann Rose Gallery RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Reston Historic Trust and Museum (RHT) and Reston Community Center (RCC) will host a panel discussion of remarkable journeys to Reston. Panelists include Lindsay Trout, Principal of Terraset; Rizwan Jaka of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS); Medelyn A. Ortiz Lopez, co-director of Southgate Community Center; and Sara, a Restonian preparing to move from a shelter into her own home. Free. Email alex.campbell@restonmuseum.org or visit restonmuseum.org. In conjunction with this event, RHT is inviting Restonians to share brief stories and photographs of their journeys to Reston: visit www.restonmuseum.org/forum.

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

The Storytime Social Hour. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Every Friday, moms, dads, caregivers and kids are invited to join a Storytime Social Hour. Scrawl will provide coffee and treats for the adults; stories and fun for the little people. Make new friends or meet up with neighbors. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

The Bookworms Club. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Young readers are invited to join Scrawl's all-new and completely free Bookworms Club. Explore a new theme each week with picture books, special guests and most often, authors. Readers are welcome to join or participate any time. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.



Saturday Series: Nature Explorer.

Noon-1:30 p.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. In the "Exploring Nature Series-Winter" program, students age 6-adult will explore Virginia's ecosystem. Sessions are spread over four Saturdays in February with a new topic to explore each week: Feb. 23 – Trees. Each session is \$8 per person. The program takes place both outdoors and indoors, so dress accordingly. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

GinDance Presents NEXT.

2-3 p.m. at Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St., NE, Washington, D.C. Gin Dance Company, based in Reston, has been selected to present its production "NEXT" at the 2019 Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival. \$30 Visit www.gindance.org, www.atlasarts.org/events/next/ or call 703-403-3766.

SUNDAY/FEB. 24

Introduction to Watercolor.

2-5 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Starting at the very beginning, this introduction to watercolor course will go over brushes, paper types, the use of water, negative space, glazing, color mixing, and more. With Katherine Rodgers. Six-week session, \$225. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

Fire Building and S'mores.

4:30-5:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn the science and art of fire building at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Discover what it takes to build a fire, and then test new abilities with primitive fire bows and modern fire-making techniques and then roast s'mores. \$8 per person, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

The Capitol Steps Benefit Performance.

7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Road, Fairfax. Join in for a SILLYarious evening as the Capitol Steps political satire comedy troupe performs a show to benefit high school theatre for the Cappies of the National Capitol Area. Adults, \$30; students/senior citizens, \$20; children 12 and under, \$10; and groups of 10 or more, \$15. Contact Amy.Young@cappies.com or visit cappies.com or visit cappies.com/nca.

MONDAY/FEB. 25

Little Hands Work on the Farm at Frying Pan.

9:45 a.m. (2-3 year olds); 11 a.m. (3-5 year olds) at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Discover what happens on a farm during the winter. Children will learn about animals, farm chores and how farm life changes with the season with

Exhibition: "RPS Clicks @ USGS"

The Reston Photographic Society, a special-interest group of the League of Reston Artists, asked photographers to enter their work in the "RPS Clicks @ USGS" exhibit. The exhibit will hang through March 1-29 at the US Geological Survey, National Gallery, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

"Fishing Buds," is one of Dawn Murphy's entries in the "RPS Clicks @ USGS" exhibit.

activities such as stories, crafts or games. \$8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park.

Photography Critique.

7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts to attend the club's critique. Ellis Rosenberg, an experienced photographer and exhibit judge, will critique member photos. Nonmembers are welcome. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Watercolor 2.0. 5:30-8:30 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. In this course students will learn more in depth color theory, mixing watercolor pigments, composition concepts, how to create texture and the use of negative space. With Katherine Rodgers. Six-week session, \$225. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 2

ArtSplash. 2-4 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Create a masterpiece in this art workshop led by artists from Abakadoodle Northern Virginia. Adults. Free. Register at fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events or call 703-689-2700, ext 4.

MONDAY/MARCH 4

Family History Research. 7-8:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Learn to find courthouse, immigration and military records in this workshop taught by a librarian from the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Public Library. Free. Call 703-689-2700 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

TUESDAY/MARCH 5

Bollywood Dance Fitness. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Try out some fun Bollywood dance moves in this fitness program for spring, led by local instructor Aparna Rao. Adults, teens. Free. Call 703-689-2700 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

Author Event: Dani Shapiro.

7-8:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dani Shapiro will discuss and sign copies of her latest memoir, *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*. She will be in conversation with professional genealogist Shannon Combs-Bennett. Free. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5065844.
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BULLETIN

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

WINTER SHELTERS

Find homeless and cold weather drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists.

DONATION REQUEST

Diva Central Accessories Drive. Through Feb. 28, Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Reston Community Center will be collecting gently used items at its Hunters Woods and Lake Anne locations. RCC is accepting donations of accessories, including shoes, jewelry, handbags and shawls. RCC does not need donations of dresses this year. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com for more.

Support Reston Historic Trust & Museum.

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum has launched a GoFundMe campaign with the goal to raise \$15,000 to go towards the repair, cleaning, and reinstallation of icons on the façade of the former Lakeside Pharmacy, an original Lake Anne Plaza store, in a new permanent exhibit. The new exhibit will be unveiled during Reston's annual Founder's Day event, April 6. Read more about their history and donate at www.gofundme.com/preserve-lakeside-pharmacy-icons to assist in their preservation. Thank you for your help!

INPUT SOUGHT

Shaping the Future Together. Fairfax County Government is beginning a strategic planning process with the community to shape the future together. The goal is to hear all voices and reach all segments of the community. This effort will span most of 2019, but in this first phase, the community is being asked to visit fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan and:

- Take a short five-question online survey
- Join a community conversation in person: Feb. 25 – Alexandria; Feb. 26 – Fairfax; March 6 – Falls Church.
- Share the survey and conversation invitation with neighbors, co-workers and county family and friends.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

Fairfax Commission on Aging Meets. 1-3 p.m. at the Hunter Mill District Office, Community Room A, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Preschool Open House and Registration. 6-7:30 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The Herndon Community Center Preschool will host an open house and registration will be taken for the 2019-2020 school year. Visitors can meet the staff and tour the preschool room. The preschool is a state licensed program for children ages 4-5. The program operates weekdays from Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for 4-5 year-old students and 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday for 3-4 year-old students. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

Planning Commission Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For agendas or to sign up to speak, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission. For more Planning Commission information, questions or a printed copy of the agenda, call the Planning Commission office at 703-324-2865 (TTY 703-324-7951).

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

Selective Mutism. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Learn about the diagnosis of Selective Mutism and how symptoms are maintained and persist. Dr. Kristin Swanson is a clinical psychologist, specializing in work with young children (ages 2-12) and their families. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

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Enough About Cancer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

At least that was my intention when I sat down to write this column. I was planning on highlighting a couple of my pet peeves: One was about people who back into parking spaces, an all-too common practice (which does not make perfect) that irks me no end and often inconveniences me while idling in my car waiting for the driver to crane his neck and coordinate his mirrors while backing into a head-first space, all while blocking my passage.

The second peeve also involves cars, but this action has potentially far more dangerous consequences: Drivers who, while motoring along, completely ignore my car's blinkers/indicator lights – WHEN THEY'RE FLASHING.

I was taught that when driving a vehicle and needing to turn/switch lanes, I was to indicate that to other drivers by using my blinkers, look into my mirrors and then move right or left accordingly. Moreover, when I observed those same lights flashing in other vehicles, I was to respect their intentions and give them a wide berth. I was not to speed up and interfere with their indications. Unfortunately, the exact opposite often happens.

Though I am still respectful when drivers flash their blinkers, it often happens that when many of my driving brethren see those lights, they react much the same way as a bull does when he sees red: they SPEED UP, and in their vehicle's acceleration, they put me and my passengers at risk. If it has happened once – which it has – it has happened a thousand times.

Unfortunately, neither of these car-related “misbehaviors” has been able to block out one of my key cancer anniversaries: Feb. 20, 2009, and as such, I will now be returning to the scene of the semi crime. And though I am not Billy Shears 20 years after the band taught me how to play, I am a lung cancer survivor who 10 years ago on Feb. 20 learned that I had cancer. That was the day when my primary care physician called me at work, about noon-ish on a Thursday to discuss the results of my previous week's surgical biopsy.

After declining the offer to come to his office, I encouraged him to just tell me – which he did: the growth was malignant. Dumbfounded, I asked for further details, which he politely deferred to an oncologist (a specialty with which I was totally unfamiliar), with whom, while we spoke on the phone, my primary care physician scheduled a Team Lourie appointment for the following Thursday.

This officially ended the diagnostic process which had been going on since I showed up at the Emergency Room on Jan. 1, 2009 complaining of pain in my right side, an inability to take a deep breath and difficulty bending over.

With an inconclusive X-Ray to not corroborate, an otherwise healthy patient with no family history of anything relevant – especially cancer, the doctor was perplexed. Fifty days later I learned I had cancer. And so I remember that day/date, a day which will go down in infamy, so to speak – in my family anyway.

The intervening days, as I have written about recently, were spent investigating the cause of my original symptoms. Eventually all test results led to one conclusion: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

Meaning metastatic and inoperable, meaning “terminal.” It was Feb. 20 when I learned my fate. (The following Thursday, Feb. 27, is another anniversary; that's when we met my oncologist for the first time and learned that my life would never be the same, or last nearly as long.)

But yet here I am, alive and reasonably well, writing about nonsense, mostly, instead of cancer, for this week, anyway. Good therapy for sure, and a nice change of pace.

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

News

PHOTOS BY RESTON ASSOCIATION



Caren Anton, RA Board of Directors candidate for Hunters Woods/Dogwood District (1-year term)



Aaron Webb, RA Board of Directors candidate for Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District (3-year term)



Tom Mulkerin, RA Board of Directors candidate for At-Large (3-year term)



John Mooney, RA Board of Directors candidate for North Point District (3-year term)



Catherine Baum, RA Board of Directors candidate for Apartment Owners Director (1-year term)

All Five Candidates Unopposed in Reston

Critical 10 percent of RA members vote.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Each spring, Reston Association (RA) members have the opportunity to elect at least three individuals to the nine-member Board of Directors. This year, members get to elect five directors according to the Elections Committee. Two seats are one-year terms due to prior mid-term resignation or appointment of interim replacements in 2018. What makes this election unique is all five candidates, the three incumbents and two new candidates run unopposed for the five seats.

Even though there are no challengers in the election, RA strongly urges members to vote. A quorum of 10 percent of eligible voters must be reached to make the election results official.

Reston's Deed provides for a nine-member Board of Directors. The members of the association elect eight directors for three-year, staggered terms and the apartment owners designate one director, according to RA. "Four of the eight directors each represent a district, generally described as the residential areas of Hunters Woods/Dogwood, Lake Anne/Tall Oaks, North Point, and South Lakes, and the remaining four directors are elected from the membership-at-large," RA states. Directors determine long-range mission and goals, set policy in finance and budget, personnel and compensation policies, planning and program strategies, and set the annual assessment rate.

Candidates for the 2019 Reston Association Board of Directors

❖ Hunters Woods/Dogwood, 1-year term- Caren Anton (Incumbent)

- ❖ North Point, 3-year term- John Mooney (Incumbent)
- ❖ Apartment Owners, 1-year term Catherine Baum (Incumbent)
- ❖ Lake Anne/Tall Oaks, 3-year term- Aaron Webb
- ❖ At-Large, 3-year term- Tom Mulkerin

Candidates' Statements

According to RA, each candidate completed the Reston Association 2019 Board of Directors Election Statement of Candidacy. Statements will be sent to all eligible RA voters along with an official ballot.

To view statements online, visit

www.reston.org/Portals/3/2019%20Election/2019%20Combined%20Candidacy%20Forms.pdf

Key Dates in the Reston Association 2019 Board of Directors Election Schedule

❖ **Thursday, Feb. 21**-Deadline for Members to Email Candidate Questions in Advance to Candidate Forum; Email to ElectionsCommittee@reston.org

❖ **Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.**-Debate-style Candidates' Forum; RA Headquarters, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive; Ask Questions at the Event or Watch Live on YouTube.

❖ **Monday, March 4, 5 p.m.**-Ballots Mailed to Members/Internet, Voting Opens at 5:00 p.m. [Online voting available with the link provided on www.reston.org, RA social media and in the RA News weekly email.]

❖ **Monday, April 1, 2019-5 p.m.**-Deadline to Return Ballots to Counting Agent's Office; Internet Voting Closes.

❖ **Tuesday, April 09, 2019- 7 p.m.**-Annual Members' Meeting - Election Results Announced Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive

❖ **Wednesday, April 10, 2019-6:30 p.m.**-Initial Board Meeting/ Election of Officers & Receipt of Audit Report.



PHOTOS BY ED LULL

South Lakes High School's Girls win Region Championships for the second consecutive year.

Lady Seahawks Win Region Title, Again

Another Valentine's Day. Another Region title for the South Lakes High School girls indoor track and field team.

Led by junior Hannah Waller's victories in the 55 meters (7.12), 300 meters (40.09) and long jump (18-11.00), the Lady Seahawks successfully defended their VHSL 6A North Region D indoor track and field championship.

Along with winning three individual events, including a school-record in the long jump, Waller teamed with sophomore Juvannadean Mullings and juniors Emily Lannen and Mary Gregory to win the 4x400 meter relay in a season-best time of 3:59.47. Gregory successfully defended her title in the 500 meters, winning the event in 1:17.31. She was also second in the 300 meters (41.94). Lannen, who was third in the 1,000 meters (3:05.45), led SLHS to victory in the 4x800 meter relay on the first day of the two day championship. She teamed with senior Isabelle Gulbert and juniors Caitlyn Morris and Sydney Anderson for a winning time of 9:45.10. Morris also finished fourth in the 1,000 meters (3:06.37)

On the boys side, junior Caleb

Miller won the shot put (45-06.50).

Other top five individual performances for the SLHS include:

❖ Freshman Jillian Howard second in the 55 meters (7.51) and fourth in the 300 meters (42.59).

❖ Fourth-place finishes by freshman Tyler Benett in the triple jump (41-00.25), sophomore Molly Shapiro in the pole vault (8-00.00), senior Nicole Post in the 55 meter hurdles (8.90), junior Marissa Banga in the 3,200 meters (11:53.66) and the boys 4x200 meter relay team of seniors Nicky Napolitano, Daniel Ezidinma, Stevie Jones and junior Jackson Cooley (1:34.36).

❖ Fifth-place finishes by senior Samantha Van Haaren in the high jump (5-00.00), sophomore Amelia DiBiase in the pole vault (7-06.00), Mullings in the 300 meters (42.67) and the boys 4x400 meter relay team of Cooley, Benett, Jones and junior David Ramirez (3:35.43).

South Lakes will send 21 athletes to compete in the VHSL 6A State Indoor Track and Field Championship Feb. 22-23 at the Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, Va.

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