

Three's Community

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News

Public Art Reston Marks 10th Anniversary

he year 2017 marks a significant milestone for Public Art Reston. The nonprofit, whose mission is to create a new generation of public artworks in Reston, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. In recognition of the accomplishments of the past decade, it has moved on from "Initiative" and officially changed its name to Public Art Reston. "A 10-year anniversary is a prime opportunity to celebrate Public Art Reston with a refreshed brand and updated name," said Public Art Reston President and Chair Maggie Parker. "Initiative for Public Art-Reston already has made its mark by facilitating approximately 15 public artworks in Reston since its inception. These additions to Reston's public art inventory were achieved in cooperation with many of the community's key civic organizations, corporations and a broad array of individuals, who worked with our Executive Director Anne Delaney to inspire the community and engage the mind and senses through public art."

Public Art Reston's refreshed branding includes a new logo, outreach materials, and an updated website, currently being developed. These changes are being done in collaboration with Red Thinking, brand-

Week in Reston

No Replacement for Septage Facility

After an extensive search of potential sites and associated cost-benefit analysis, the County has decided not to pursue the construction of a new facility to replace the existing north county site (i.e., Colvin Run Septage Receiving Facility); which will be permanently closed. The high costs of purchasing property and constructing a new facility makes it impractical to recover expenditures through reasonable service fees. Further, the alternative disposal options for county generated septage which were instituted during the temporary closure of the Colvin Run Facility (including options at the Noman M. Cole Pollution Control Plant, the Upper Occoquan service Authority, and D.C. Water's Blue Plains facility) have worked effectively and will be able to meet future needs. Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins said, "I am pleased the County worked with the community in addressing the various concerns/comments and worked out a solution that is both a win/ win for the community, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and the haulers." For a more in depth summary of the decision visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ dpwes/ and look under News & Information for Septage Receiving Site Relocation Feasibility Study Concludes.

Celebrating Dogs and Their Humans

Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins

ing and digital marketing specialists founded by Jen Sterling and supported in part by Red Thinking's annual BrandJam grant, which "helps local non-profits get the marketing collateral they need to achieve their missions." "The Red Thinking team has loved working with Public Art Reston from its inception," Sterling said. "We established the original brand identity and then, during our most recent BrandJam, we were invited to refresh the organization's brand to represent its growth. Public Art Reston has always been bold and confident in how it represents its brand, making it incredibly fun and rewarding to work with."

Public Art Reston's renewed branding will focus on encouraging the community and viewers to discover, engage, and be inspired by Reston's public artworks. Public Art Reston was founded in 2007 by Reston civic and community organizations and leaders. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to inspire an ongoing commitment for public art and create a new generation of artworks in Reston. It imagines public art throughout Reston that inspires the community and engages the mind and senses. For more about Public Art Reston, visit www.publicartreston.org

and the Park Authority are teaming together to host the Wag Fest, on Saturday, April 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dog owners will have the opportunity to learn about the county's dog parks and find out about opportunities to serve as a volunteer dog park monitor.

Also featured at Wag Fest will be presentations and demonstrations of the Fire and Rescue VA canine team members and the Fairfax County Police K-9 unit. In addition, dog licenses will be available for sale, and guests from the Animal Shelter will be featured. Dog supplies and businesses will also be on hand for the festivities.

Wag Fest will be held inside and outside at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. For more information, contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

Kiddie Academy in Reston Presents Summer Programs

On Saturday, April 1, Kiddie Academy of Reston will be hosting inaugural CampVentures event. Local families seeking summer camp programs for children ages 2-12 years old are invited to the fun, free community event to experience first-hand a summer's worth of camp programs, concepts and education in a single morning (from 10 a.m.-12) at 12320 Pinecrest Road, Suite 150, Reston.

This event is open to anyone in the community — including current students and new friends and families who would like to partake in this fun experience.



Discussing Islam at South Lakes High

Joshua Salaam, the Youth Director at the ADAMS Center, gave a dynamic presentation about Islam to Andrea Parent's IB World Religions class at South Lakes High School. The discussion was based on student generated questions about his own personal practices, religious rituals, as well as current social and political issues. He made the practice of Islam come alive with his relatable answers and explanations that engaged the students, opened minds, and produced even more thoughtful questions.



Supporting Peace Players

From left: Franklin Middle School eighth graders Zachary Levine, Spencer Schwartz, Nathan Reed, are joined by Alex Harris, owner of Evolution Basketball Training at the second annual "Dunkin' for Dollars 3 on 3" tournament. This year, the event was held at Evolution Basketball in Merrifield and raised \$1,300 for Peace Players International, a nonprofit that unites young people from divided communities through basketball. Evolution Basketball donated their court space and **Shoppers Food Warehouse at** Village Center at Dulles donated concessions.

Photo contributed

Bulletin Board

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/by noon on Friday.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 29

Transportation Meeting. 7 p.m. in the lecture hall of Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Fairfax County Department of Transportation will host two informational meetings on the proposed Reston Transportation Service District. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Managing Inflammation Naturally. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Registered dietician Natalie Kannan will share ways to manage chronic inflammation through diet and healthy eating choices. For adults, free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 12

Medicare 101. 2-2:30 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Fairfax County is offering the free seminar, Medicare 101. Contact Karen Brutsché at 703-390-6157 for more.

ONGOING

Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available. Call 703-956-8930 or email Reston.ED@ sunriseseniorliving.com to RSVP.

Exercise for Parkinson's. Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. parkinsonfoundation.org. ckacenga@sportandhealth.com 703-621-4148.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County
Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics,
home turf training or speakers for homeowner's
meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org
or call Dora Lockwood at 401-864-4778.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at last 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. Email skeduman@aol.com for more.

News

Lawsuit Filed in Reston Town Center Parking Battle

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

restaurant in Reston Town Center filed a lawsuit against Boston Properties on Thursday, March 23, over the paid parking system that was implemented in January, which has been met with resistance from merchants and shoppers.

Jackson's Mighty Fine Food & Lucky Lounge on Democracy Drive filed the lawsuit, including a motion for a temporary injunction against its town center landlord, South of Market LLC, which is controlled and operated by Boston Properties.

Filed in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Jackson's seeks to force Boston Properties to pay \$500,000 in damages the restaurant suffered from the town center's paid parking system. The lawsuit also demands the system be scrapped.

The lawsuit alleges the town center's parking validation system violates Jackson's lease rights and the requirements for its guests to receive free park-

"Our team has been inundated with complaints from guests who tell us that the process to use the validation system is cumbersome and confusing," Orson Williams, managing partner at Jackson's, said in a press release. "On top of that, Boston Properties' parking attendants often give incorrect and mis-

leading instructions when our guests seek help in getting unlimited free parking."

THE PAID PARKING system requires all parkers to pay by providing their license plate number and credit card information by either using a mobile app called Park RTC, accessing the Park RTC website or by dialing a phone number. For those parking in the center's garages, utilizing a kiosk to pay by credit card or cash is also available.

More steps are required when people receive validation for their parking, which participating merchants dole out via numeric codes that patrons must then enter into the mobile app or the kiosk that correlates with specific, color-coded parking garages that merchants are assigned.

If shoppers park in the incorrect garage, they are **MORE LITIGATION** is still to come if merchants out of luck.

"Many parking users have complained that the system is not user-friendly, requires payment upfront and signage in the garage is confusing," Williams

The lawsuit is the latest move in a merchant- and community-lead resistance to the town center's paid parking system since it was implemented on Jan. 3.

In February, disgruntled merchants who claimed their businesses are now suffering significant profit losses organized into the Reston Merchants Association and hired the Fay Law Group to look into taking

Earlier in March, hundreds of people walked in a



Aaron Gordon of Gordon Food Group and the proprietor of the Red Velvet Cupcakery in the town center speaks to "Park Free RTC" protest marchers earlier this month.

"Park Free RTC" protest march demanding Boston Properties reduce hourly parking rates or give patrons the first hour or two free.

'We did not want to have to sue and we tried to work with Boston Properties to address our concerns and our rights under the lease to give our customers free and hassle-free parking, both before and after Boston Properties implemented this parking system," Jon Norton, CEO of Great American Restaurants, which owns Jackson's, said in a press release. "But they were uncompromising and appeared disinterested in working with us to provide our guests a better experience at Reston Town Center.'

While the restaurant chose to forgo teaming up with the coalition of merchants who are threatening legal action under their association umbrella, it feels it has its own unique legal claim.

"Jackson's lawsuit is based on their own lease and contractual terms," Christy Moran, a Jackson's spokesperson, said over email. "Each restaurant negotiates their own lease. Great American Restaurants/Jackson's is not aware of the terms of other leases."

continue to feel their requests are ignored.

"We're very much behind Jackson's," Aaron Gordon of Gordon Food Group and the proprietor of the Red Velvet Cupcakery in the town center, said over email. "Don't be surprised if others, including the Merchant's Association, follow up with lawsuits of our own."

Boston Properties was unwilling to comment on the litigation.

"It would be inappropriate to discuss pending litigation, particularly as there is a confidentiality provision that prevents either party from discussing many of the lease terms," Kathy Walsh, a Boston Properties spokesperson, said over email.

Mark Lipari and Rebecca Lane of Reston were the only community members to ask questions about the proposed service district during the meeting. A representative of the Reston **Town Center Association was** also present.



Three's Community

Three people show up at meeting on proposed transit area tax.

By Fallon Forbush THE CONNECTION

new service district that would tax all property near metrorail stations in Reston and Herndon will be voted on by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors next week and property owners had a lean showing to discuss the pro-

Three people attended a community meeting about the new tax with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation in the cafeteria of Coates Elementary School in Herndon on Tuesday, March 21.

One reason for the poor attendance could be that property owners have not been directly notified of the proposed tax.

"I had thought that there was an effort that was being put forward to mail property owners and I don't think that that is actually the case," Ray Johnson of the FCDOT, said during the meeting. "I know that we are putting out notifications through our typical channels through social media, through the web, through the board's website, through public meetings, and that's really the reason why we decided to have service district-centric meetings ahead of the public hearing. We're trying to reach out as much as we can."

However, these are all communications that individuals must opt-in to receive.

Rebecca Lane of Reston heard about the tax and the community meeting through word of mouth. "I was living in Reston, but I was not aware of this for some reason," Lane said during

the meeting. "Somehow it just got off my radar, so when I got the information. I got a lot of misinformation."

While those in the community are still learning about the tax, the Board of Supervisors already voted to approve the \$2.2 billion Reston Transportation Funding Plan and its associated road fund on Tuesday,

The plan's service district, which the board has not voted on yet, would only affect those who own property within the Reston Transit Station Areas. The county designated these areas near the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority metrorail stations that will serve Reston and Herndon on the Silver Line: the Reston Town Center, Wiehle-Reston East and Herndon stations.

The proposed service district rate for homeowners is 2.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value of the property.

The FCDOT will hold another community meeting about the service district at Hughes Middle School in Reston on Wednesday, March 29, after deadline for this newspaper. The FCDOT will also be giving a presentation to the Reston Town Center Association on April 3, according to Tom Biesiadny, FCDOT director.

The board will have a public hearing on Tuesday, April 4, at 2 p.m. to discuss and vote on the plan's service district. If it is approved, the board will also vote on whether to establish an advisory board to advise the board on transportation project priorities and annual adjustments to the tax rate for the service district.

OPINION

Expand Medicaid Now

Virginia has missed out on \$10 billion, 30,000 jobs and care for 400,000 citizens.

irginia's General Assembly has refused to accept one of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, expansion of Medicaid at almost no cost to Virginia that

could have covered 400,000 uninsured Virginians and would EDITORIAL have brought more than \$10 billion into the state. It has also

cost lives.

Ironically, the failed bill to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act included changes to Medicaid that would have penalized states, like Virginia, that did not expand Medicaid, permanently reducing federal fund-

On Monday, Gov. Terry McAuliffe proposed a budget amendment restoring his authority to pursue planning for Medicaid expansion in the wake of the failed repeal effort in Congress.

Kansas and North Carolina are taking steps this week to expand Medicaid, hoping to join the 31 other states plus the District of Columbia that have already done so.

More than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. More than 40,000 residents of Arlington and Alexandria have no health insurance. That's more than 12 percent of the people who live in one of the wealthiest areas in the nation.

A Harvard Medical School study determined that the decision by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act would result in between 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in. In Virginia, the number of deaths due to failure to expand Medicaid: between 266 and 987.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation or educaa mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

As Virginia and the rest of the nation wrestles with heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed.

"The time has come for us to bring our taxpayer dollars back to serve the individuals who need them the most," said McAuliffe. "With this amendment, I'm asking the General Assembly to work with me to pursue Medicaid expansion and put this funding to work for our most vulnerable Virginians."

Primaries for candidates for the House of Delegates plus governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general are in June, with all seats on the ballot in November. An important question as voters choose: What is their position on Medicaid expansion? How did incumbents

MARY KIMM

In Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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

hile a governor is the chief executive of a state responsible for seeing that the laws are carried out, the governor plays a crucial role in the legislative process with the requirement that all passed bills must be signed before they become law or not signed and vetoed to keep such bills from becoming law. There is no better example of the significance of the governor's power to veto laws than in Virginia.

COMMENTARY

Next week on Wednesday, April 5, which

is the required sixth Wednesday after the adjournment of the regular session of the General Assembly, the Constitution requires a reconvened or commonly called "veto session" to consider only vetoes or amendments made by the governor to bills that had been passed in both houses of the General Assembly earlier in the regular session. The requirement for the reconvened session was added to the

Constitution in 1981 because without it the governor was able to veto bills after legislators went home without any opportunity for them to override the veto.

With the fast pace of nearly a thousand bills being passed in a session of 45 to 60 days, the reconvened session provides an opportunity for the governor to send down amendments that are found to be needed that might clarify or correct language in bills.

Most importantly, a governor can play a role in the legislative process by vetoing some really bad bills that may have narrowly



the Commonwealth. By the end of the reconvened session next week he will have set a record of vetoing more than 90 bills without legislators being able to get a twothirds vote in both houses for the bills to become law without his signature. I am especially pleased that he has never vetoed a bill that I had not already voted against in the regular session.

As in previous years he has vetoed bills that would legalize discrimination against LGBT citizens. He has regularly vetoed bills similar to HB2 in North Carolina that has brought such bad publicity to

passed the legislature that state for upholding discrimination and that resulted in the state losing businesses and major sports events. Without Gov. McAuliffe's courageous veto, Virginia would be in the same category of discrimination as North Carolina. Gov. McAuliffe has once again vetoed a bill that would deny public funding to Planned Parenthood which provides critically important health services to women over an ideological dispute as to who should make reproductive health decisions for women. He is again vetoing a series of bills that would make guns and switchblades more accessible to persons in emergency shelters including children. He vetoed a bill that would have expanded eligibility for concealed handgun permits.

What a difference Gov. Terry McAuliffe has made with his veto pen in keeping some really bad bills from becoming law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trumpcare is Greater Threat Than Russia

To the Editor:

worked with a known enemy to intervene in our elections, I am concerned with a far greater threat to the health of our democracy, the Trump healthcare bill.

pen for her son, as someone who a terroristic threat to the fundagates whether Trump's campaign rare diseases, as someone who has studied the business of healthcare and practices for wellness, I could argue against the merits of Trumpcare, but I won't. Logic tells us the foundation of the bill is As a mom who carries an Epi- wrong. The GOP healthcare bill is

never inflicted upon us. What better way to destroy a nation than physically weaken its people? A nation full of ill people who are financially compromised and emotionally distraught cannot create a strong, safe or independent

country. How malicious. How de-Do we care about Russia? We is familiar with the cost of expenmental power of our nation, the vious. To promote the bill as inshould. But while the FBI investi- sive diagnostic tests and care for likes of which Putin could have creasing health care choice when it will cut health insurance for millions of people. Trumpcare is a greater risk to our security than a foreign agent because it will cripple the source of our success, our people. We, enlisted (wo)men, SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

Reston

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses Published by

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Local Media Connection LLC

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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LETTERS

From Page 4

government workers, technology innovators, doctors, teachers. artists and police officers should all exercise our choice to grant everyone access to health care by rejecting the GOP proposal.

In Northern Virginia we know better. In the districts where representatives have blindly or complicity argued for such a destructive bill, let's remind them that we know better. To the senators who have provided lukewarm support for access to healthcare, let's call them out.

Margaret Gallen, Reston

Ill-conceived

To the Editor:

Fourteen million. That's how many of your neighbors, friends, family members — and perhaps even you - will lose health insurance next year under the GOP's planned overhaul of the ACA. Within a decade those losses balloon to 24 million people, all relative to the coverage levels anticipated under the ACA. Premiums will soar for older people but the GOP's age-based tax credits are not calibrated to absorb these rate increases, leaving many 50-to-64 year olds unable to afford insurance. Lower-income people will also be priced out because the GOP tax credits are not adjusted for income. As a further assault, this vulnerable population also loses the subsidies that help to offset their out-of-pocket health costs.

Yes, the GOP plan is expected to reduce the deficit by \$337 billion over 10 years, but this is only because they slash Medicaid spending by an eye-popping \$880 billion and allocate \$312 billion less for premium tax credits. These draconian cuts finance \$575 billion in tax cuts, two of which will provide windfall benefits to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans and drain the Medicare Part A trust fund three years sooner. So much for President Trump's promise of universal coverage, lower costs, and Medicaid and Medicare protections. Perhaps this was a pledge made before he fully appreciated the complexities of health reform.

GOP leadership would have you believe that their plan is about giving people choices, but there will be no choice for millions of vulnerable Americans under their approach. If they persist with their ill-conceived plan, it is the choices that angry constituents make in the voting booth that will haunt them for years. Why not, instead, work across the aisle to improve the individual market and build on the coverage gains of the ACA?

> Julie Schoenman Reston



Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel From Now to WOW in 5 Days Guarantee TWO POOR TEACHERS 10% down nothing until the job Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling is complete for the

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF AN EXPERIMENTAL MULTIFAMILY LINE EXTENSION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO § 56-234 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA AND FOR WAIVER OF PROVISIONS OF RULE 20 VAC 5-303-20 CASE NO. PUR-2017-00027

On February 23, 2017, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("CVA" or "Company"), filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application ("Application") for approval of a five-year experimental Multifamily Line Extension Program ("Pilot"), pursuant to § 56-234 of the Code of Virginia.

Under the proposed Pilot, following a determination that an extension of service to a multifamily project would produce a positive net present value ("NPV") calculated under the Company's current line extension policy, an eligible builder or developer would be offered a line extension agreement pursuant to the proposed Multifamily Tariff. Under the proposed Multifamily Tariff, the contribution provided by the Company may not exceed the lesser of: (i) the actual per unit cost for installation of gas piping and venting in the multifamily project; (ii) 80% of the per unit positive NPV (on a per unit basis) of the development, as calculated using CVA's economic analysis; or (iii) \$1,250 per unit. According to the Company, the Pilot will be available to all new multifamily projects and to existing multifamily developments that are not served with natural gas but are requesting natural gas service to be provided to at least two individually metered dwelling units served through a single service line. The Company proposes a \$5 million cap on cumulative contributions committed to during the five-year term of the Pilot.

According to the Company, the Pilot is designed to: (1) reduce the relatively high up-front costs of installing internal piping and venting within multifamily projects where an extension of service by CVA is economically justified; (2) afford the ultimate occupants of those multifamily buildings the opportunity to receive the economic benefits of low cost, clean and reliable natural gas service; and (3) increase CVA's natural gas multifamily customer base throughout its service area in an economic and rational manner, which will expand the customer base over which its fixed cost of service will be recovered. For those reasons, the Company asserts that approval of the Pilot is in the public interest.

The Company states that the Pilot is necessary in order for CVA to acquire information that is or may be in furtherance of the public interest. Specifically, the Company intends to track data relating to the contributions provided, number of projects completed, number of meters added, estimated load added and estimated benefits passed on to existing customers. Additionally, the Company plans to evaluate whether the 80% of positive NPV cap on contributions as well as the \$1,250 per unit cap on contributions are effective and whether either or both of the limitations on contributions should be adjusted in the event that the Pilot is extended or made permanent. In addition, the Company intends to assess whether the 480-month amortization period is reasonable or should be adjusted.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on July 25, 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive testimony from members of the public and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff. Any person desiring to testify as a public witness at this hearing should appear fifteen (15) minutes prior to the starting time of the hearing and identify himself or herself to the Commission's Bailiff.

A copy of the Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, James S. Copenhaver, Esquire, NiSource Corporate Services Company, 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the documents by electronic means.

Copies of the public version of all documents filed in this case also are available for interested persons to review in the Commission's Document Control Center, located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing, on or before May 2, 2017, a notice of participation. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Company at the address set forth above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2017-00027. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before July 18, 2017, any interested person wishing to comment on the Application shall file written comments on the Application with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any interested person desiring to file comments electronically may do so on or before July 18, 2017, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case. Compact disks or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2017-00027.

The Commission's Rules of Practice may be viewed at http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice may be viewed at http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice may be viewed at http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice may be viewed at http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case. tice and an official copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding may be obtained from the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

News



United Airlines employees May Hester and Jeff Lattea assist Felix Reges and mom Ina Laemmerzahl of Reston to "check-in" to their "Wings for All" simulated flight travel experience at Dulles International Airport.



"Captain" Julia Ferguson, a 16-year-old from Lorton, required some extra assistance to try out the Number One seat on the plane, but once in place, she was ready to go.

Wings for All Travel rehearsal offered for individuals with disabilities.

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

lenn Reges and Ina Laemmerzahl are planning on taking their 9-year-old son, Felix Reges, on a trip to Colorado. Many couples would simply book their flights, a hotel room and the rental car and when the day arrived would be off to the airport for a fun-filled family vacation, but things are a bit more complicated for this Reston family. Felix has autism and is legally blind. His parents were worried how they would manage the challenges of travel by air, and how Felix would react to an experience that has been known to cause stress even for the most prepared travellers.

The "Wings for All" program's latest offering was one way to take a dry run at the travel adventure.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) teamed up with non-profit The Arc, local chapter The Arc of Northern Virginia, United Airlines, Travelers Aid, MarketPlace Development, and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to simulate a typical airport travel experience for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

About 125 people — participants with differing special needs and their family members — arrived at Dulles International Airport on Saturday, March 25 and were guided through the travel process by an army of volunteers clad in neon-green t-shirts and directed by dozens of like-colored posters with directional arrows and additional instructions.

AT THE UNITED check-in kiosks, United employee May Hester helped each participant use the screens to enter their information and her colleague Jeff Lattea printed out boarding passes. Lattea, whose mother was a special education teacher, has volun-



Giovanni Solis-Sosa of Manassas wasn't so sure about the jetway portion of the "Wings for All" travel practice as he made his way to the plane with his family, but his smiles returned once he was safely on board.

teered to work this event several times. "I love doing this," he said. "If it helps give these families the confidence to take trips they may have avoided, it's worth every minute."

To gain that kind of confidence is why Lauren Gibson brought her 8-year-old son Aiden out to participate in the program. Where would Aiden take his flight if given the choice? Without hesitation, the youngster declared "Disney World!"

With boarding passes for United "Flight 2839 to Baltimore" in hand, the "passengers" then made their way to the TSA checkpoints. Some accommodations for wheelchairs had to be made. A back brace posed a momentary delay. A few of the parents and guardians looked somewhat anxious, concerned that their participant would become distressed at the on-and-off shoe ac-



Kelsi Da Re gives her "Wings for All" travel rehearsal a "thumbs up" as she boards the United plane for a simulated flight.

tion, the passing through the monitors, and, in one or two cases, a wave of the wand, but the piece of the pre-flight travel puzzle that had worried many the most, went off without a hitch and it was on to the subway to Terminal C.

At Gate C12 there was the wait that seasoned travelers have come to expect, as planes are maintained and crews come aboard. Not part of the regular routine, however, was the visit of First Officer Julie Callens, who circled the gate area and introduced herself to all of her passengers, offering souvenir wing pins and a smile.

At first, Kelsi Da Re, 11, was too shy to accept Callens' overtures and her gifts, but before long the girl, who had travelled from Haymarket to experience the travel rehearsal, was chatting with ease with the pilot, who was fresh off a flight from Frank-

furt, Germany. Callens has volunteered with "Wings for All" before and said she wouldn't have missed this opportunity, "no matter what."

Kelsi's mom, Ann, was thrilled at how things were going. Up to now, she wasn't sure how her daughter would react to the noises, the lines, and the typical whirlwind of humanity that can be found at the airport. "There have been no plane trips," she said. She's thought about a trip to Maine, just for the peace and the beauty, or maybe a trip to see family in Chicago. "I think we can really start thinking about those trips now."

Robbie Frost, an 11-year-old from Centreville, didn't seem too shy or really too bothered by the wait at the gate. Surrounded by his grandparents Marsha and Lawrence Frost, from Springfield, and accompanied by his brother Tanner, Robbie had one word for the day's activities so far: "Awesome!"

AT LAST, the call was given to begin boarding and everyone lined up according to their boarding pass group number. The walk down the jetway did bring on a few frowns, especially from Giovanni Solis-Sosa, but for the youngster from Manassas, there were too many interesting things to check out once he and his family had found their seats, so smiles once again became the order of the day.

The all-volunteer flight crew were prepared for their special passengers. Several of the participants had to be carefully transferred from their own wheelchairs onto special "aisle chairs" that can fit in the narrow cabin space, and then transferred again into their assigned seats. At the end of the "flight," this process had to be performed in reverse, but was accomplished with minimal fuss and discomfort for the passenger. Janene Shaw, the Dulles Terminal opera

SEE WINGS FOR ALL, PAGE 12

FAMILY CONNECTION

Backyard Adventure Ideas for a spring break family staycation.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

or Katie Wendel, a spring break vacation this year won't mean loading up the car and driving several hundred miles or waiting in long lines at the airport. While the Bethesda mother of five is planning to enjoy some relaxing downtime with her family, she won't venture far from home.

"We're going to be tourists this year and visit the monuments and museums in Washington. We're also going to try to find every avenue in the city that's named after a state," said Wendel. "If you think about it, there's so much to do in this area that we all take for granted. You really don't have to leave the area to feel like you're in another city."

From museum exhibits to adventure centers, a goldmine of family getaways abounds locally. There are even activities for family bonding available without leaving home.

"Ask the kids what they would



Local national parks like Theodore Roosevelt Island are ideal for family staycations, says Lois Stover, Ph.D. of Marymount University.

like to do. Involve them and give [them] a choice. Whatever it is they suggest, come up with a plan to document their adventure so they can share it with grandparents or siblings away at college, said Lois Stover, Ph.D., dean, School of Education and Human Services at Marymount University. "Let them help plan the Metro

route or just look at the Metro map and randomly pick a station and explore that area."

"A lot of adults assume that kids want a big trip, but a lot of times a kid will say, 'I want to blow bubbles in the back yard.' It's important for children to have a say in how the family uses its free time," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D.,

professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College.

Among the recommendations that Stover offers are activities at one's neighborhood library and trips to indoor public swimming pools. For animal-loving families the National Zoo offers beasts ranging from elephants and eagles to tigers and frogs.

"Get outside and take the family to one of the lesser known national parks, like Prince William, or walk the C&O Canal," said Stover. There's also Gravelly Point Park near Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, which is ideal for family picnics, games of kickball or simply watching airplanes take off and land.

"If it's warm, do a beach day in the backyard [or] set up an indoor mini-golf course with Nerf balls [or use] Wiffle balls and bats," said Stover. "Have a dance party, a science day. Have a 'Today is Blue, or whatever color works, Day,' so everyone wears blue, all foods are blue, you ride the blue line Metro just to see where it goes, [for example]." The U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory on the National Mall is where Stephanie Kleinman is planning to take her twin daughters during spring break.

"The girls call it a museum for plants, and it's neat to go from the desert to the jungle all within one building," said Kleinman who lives in McLean. "We'll probably check out some of the other museums while we're downtown."

There are times when a staycation can be more relaxing than travel, says Lorente. "If you look at the list of the top 100 stressors in life, taking a vacation is on the list," she said. "A staycation, when done with purpose, can really be good."

Advanced planning is a key to making that time spent together meaningful, advises Lorente. "A lot of times people say they're taking a staycation and they end up doing chores around the house. And everybody is on their electronics," she said. "But it's really about family bonding and everyone coming together and creating shared experiences as a family."





ENTERTAINMENT



CampVentures

April 1 it's the CampVentures event, 10-noon at Kiddie Academy of Reston, 12320 Pinecrest Road, Suite 150, Reston. Local families seeking summer camp programs for children ages 2-12 years old are invited. Visit kiddieacademy.com/academies/reston/ for more.

Send announcements to www.connectionnews papers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Slave Life Exhibit. Through March 31, various times at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. \$7 adults, \$6 students, and \$5 seniors and children age 5-15. Artifacts excavated from around Sully's 18th-century slave cabins. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/ or call 703-437-1794.

Mosaic Art with Anita Damron. Mondays through April 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. All mosaic methods taught in this class. \$200 + a \$50 supplies. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

"No Place Like Home." Great Falls Studios presents a juried art show on exhibit through April 8 at ArtSpaceHerndon, 750 Center St., Herndon, Visit www.artspaceherndon.com..

Herndon. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com..

Ice Skating in the Pavilion 8 a.m.-11 p.m. open daily through March. Skate Shop, 1818

Discovery Street, Reston Town Center. 11900

Market Street. Receive \$2 off admission with valid college ID. Live DJ & music, games & prizes; skating continues until 11 pm. Share the ice with Scooby-Doo, Cat in the Hat and more. 703-709-6300 skating@restontowncenter.com restontowncenter.com/skating

restontowncenter.com/skating

"A Bird in the Hand." throughout the spring in Reston Town Square Park, Market St., Reston. See and explore Patrick Dougherty's monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. Presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. Call 703-471-9242 or visit

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Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m.
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- Hear reports on the state of the association.
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www.reston.org



ENTERTAINMENT

restonarts.org.
All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com.

"A Bird in the Hand" through spring 2017 Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market Street, Reston Town Center. See and explore Patrick Dougherty's monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. Presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org

Emerging Visions: Interactions. Various times through April 1 at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston. After viewing Shih Chieh Huang: Synthetic Transformations, students were asked to explore different interpretations and aspects of interactions. The final selections will be on view in the gallery. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242 for more.

MARCH 31-APRIL 2

Rings for Spring Bridal Event. Various times by appointment at Midtown Jewelers, Reston Town Center, 11990 Market St. D, Reston. Selection of engagement rings and wedding bands from designers. Specials available only for this weekend. Call 703-707-9663 or visit midtownjewelers.com for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1

Watershed Cleanup Day. 8 a.m.-noon at Runnymede Park, 195 Herndon Parkway. Runnymede Park and Sugarland Run watershed cleanup day and shred. Volunteers should dress for the weather, wear boots with sturdy soles, and bring work gloves, and there will be a free secure document shred truck on the premises too. Visit tinyurl.com/HerndonCleanup or call 703-435-6800 x 2014 for more.

Swim Team Tryouts. 10 a.m.-noon at Life Time Swim, 1757 Business Center Drive, Reston.

Open to members and non-members, ages 5+, Life Time Swim Team is a part of USA Swimming and offers weekly practices, specialized training, regular competitions and the chance to win awards. Call 571-512-3500.

CampVentures. 10 a.m.-noon at Kiddie Academy of Reston, 12320 Pinecrest Road, Suite 150, Reston. Local families seeking summer camp programs for children ages 2-12 years old are invited. Visit kiddieacademy.com/academies/ reston/ for more.

Medicinal Plants in the Civil War. 4-5 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. The program includes a guided hike around the Frying Pan Meeting House to learn to spot the plants that were used to heal during scarce times and find out how they were put to use. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

SUNDAY/APRIL 2

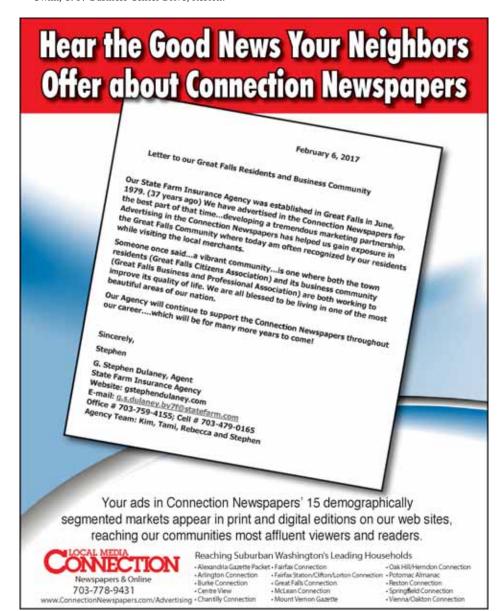
Tidewater Guitar Quartet. 4-6 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Tidewater Guitar Orchestra members John Boyles, Sam Dorsey, Todd Holcomb and Cliff Morris have recently come together with guitars. Call 703-956-6590 for more.

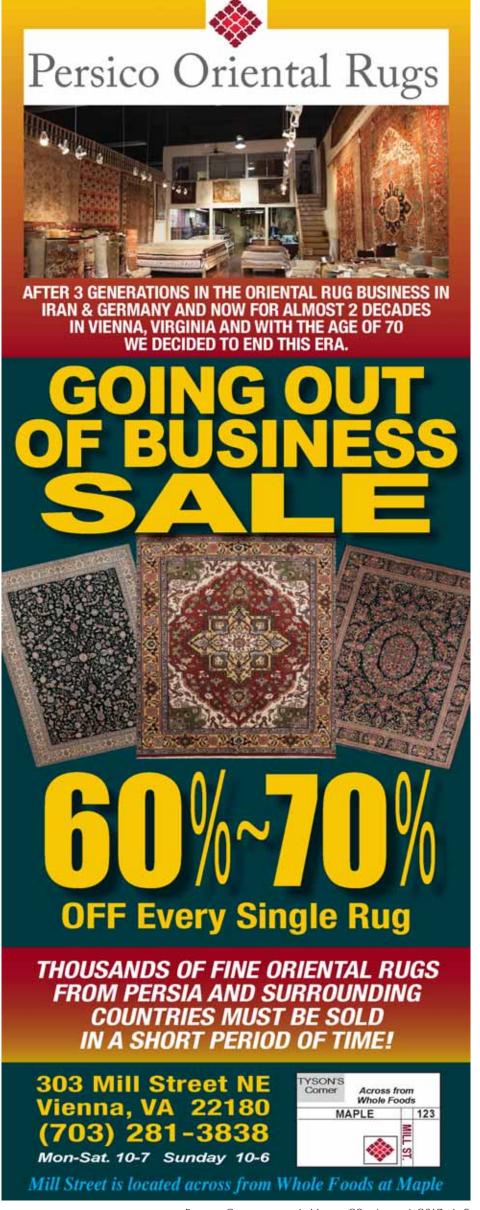
FRIDAY/APRIL 7

Senior Tea. 10:30-noon at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. View the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea on the second Friday of the month, all teas are free and open to the public. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9560 for more.

Meditation for Peace and Well-being. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive Reston, Longtime meditator Gerry Gorman will share a simple technique of spiritual meditation that can help achieve a lasting state of peace and happiness. For adults, free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11





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to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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How Do I Know Then What I Don't Know Now?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently I went online to book a trip to Topeka, Ks. to meet our new niece, Sabella Rey. I went to Trivago for the hotel reservations and Expedia for the plane/rental car reservations. That's what I'm supposed to do, right? The process seemed simple enough and without too-much further adieu, I was able to make all the arrangements, including renting a car for the four days we'd need one. And I even booked my father-in-law's hotel reservations as well, almost as if I knew what I was doing. Subsequently, I received all my email confirmations indicating that I had in fact succeeded in one of my least favorite endeavors: computing my way to safe and secure travel

For a few days, especially after receiving the site's emails and reviewing them for accuracy, I thought all was right in my travel-plan's world. Then I started receiving multiple emails and pop-up ads from sites promoting their hotel and flight reservations/rates. Expedia, the site on which I made my plane reservations began bombarding me with flight and rental car deals. Trivago, the site on which I made our hotel reservations, began bombarding me with hotel and rental car deals. None of which I needed. All of which had been completed when I went on their sites originally and made my hotel, flight and car rental reservations.

Given the way in which the Internet has changed the world and provided computerized access to almost everything, I was only slightly surprised by the bombardment. I'm clear on the concept, just not confident in the process. Nevertheless, I realize there really isn't any alternative these days to researching goods and services — and prices. My dilemma arose after the fact when I received all these offers on the exact goods and services I had ALREADY booked. What had I done, and how much extra money — and hassle had I done

I thought I was solving a problem (travel plans which involved coordinating our flight arrival in Kansas City from Baltimore, with my father-in-law's flight arrival from New York City), not creating one. After receiving all these offers and inducements from Expedia, Trivago and others, I'm now wondering if I missed an opportunity to simplify our travel plans and spend less for having done so? Obviously, I don't have an answer since I never clicked through the ads/opened the emails to see what the solicitation was all about. I didn't have the patience and besides, certainly concerning the airlines, wouldn't there be penalties for changing/canceling a flight? And what about my father-in-law's airline reservations? It was all too much to juggle so I stood pat. Soon, the ads and emails slowed down to a trickle and I was no longer remained — regularly, about my presumptive incompetence.

But I'm thinking about the next trip now, and perhaps that was the point. Maybe there is a better way to minimize travel expenses and maximize benefits? But how do I accomplish that, really? It's not like I can fake hotel/plane/car rental reservations in hopes that the site's artificial intelligence will think I'm still a potential buyer rather than one who's already bought. What good would that do? The solicitations are designed for current action not for a definite maybe sometime in the future, aren't they?

I'm certainly more aware now of how the process sort of works. But I'm less certain how I could actually change my behavior in order to become less of a victim and more of a beneficiary. I imagine it has to do with making my computer more of a friend, which doesn't interest me in the least. Of course, I want to pay less for my travel plans, but I'm not sure if the cost of doing business that way is worth the pain and suffering it inevitably will cause.

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

ENTERTAINMENT



"Budapest Bridge," photographed by Dawn Murphy, captures the romance of Budapest's nightlife along the Danube River. This photograph is an entry in the Reston Photographic Society's exhibit at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne from June 5-July 2.

Founder's Day Show Opens at Lake Anne

The League of Reston Artists presents their annual Founder's Day exhibit in honor of the group's founder, Patricia MacIntyre. MacIntyre will judge the painted and mixed media entries that illustrate the theme of "A Respite from Chaos."

The opening reception, on Sunday, April 9 from 2-4 p.m. at the gallery, will invite conversation about the artworks as awards are given to the outstanding pieces. The exhibit runs From April 3-30 and is free and open to the public 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston.

Visit the League of Reston Artists website at www.leagueofreston artists.org for more information on this and other events.

Photographers: Join Monthly Meetings

The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts of all skill levels to attend meetings on the third Monday of the month, from September-November and January-May. Join fellow photographers from 7:30-9:30 p..m in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

RPS is a special-interest group of the League of Reston Artists. Share information and enjoy guest speakers, workshops and group critiques. Nonmembers are welcome.

Visit the League of Reston Artists website at www.league ofrestonartists.org for more.

Photographers: Enter Lake Anne Exhibit

The Reston Photographic Society, a special interest group of the League of Reston Artists, invites photographers to enter photographs in the RPS at Lake Anne show by June 2 through the web site. Entries will be judged and \$1,000 in prizes will be awarded at the reception on Sunday, June 11 from 2-4 p.m. at the gallery.

The exhibit runs from June 5 through July 2 and is free and open to the public 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston.

Visit the League of Reston Artists website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more information on this and other events.

CALENDAR

From Page 9

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Founder's Day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. A celebration the 53rd anniversary of Reston's founding. Visit www.restonmuseum.org/ foundersday or call 703-709-7700 for more.

Aqua Egg Hunt. 1:30.m. at Herndon Community Center pool, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon Children will collect as many floating and sinking eggs as possible in the time allowed. \$10. Open swim at 4 p.m. Visit herndon-va.gov.

Fiber Artist Workshop. 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon, Join fiber artist, Cecile Batchelor, in making a quilt with paper. In this two-hour session, children will learn a little bit about tessellations, color theory, and how to construct a quilt. Ages 10-14. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-

Classical Ballet Theatre. 7:30 p.m. at CenterStage at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road. Reston. Complimentary pre-performance cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.cbtnva.org or call the box office at Box Office: 703-476- 4500.

APRIL 11-13

Spring Break Art Camp. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Art teacher Emily VanDeburgh will focus on drawing, acrylic painting, and mixed media with an emphasis on specific styles and master's work. Call 703-956-6590 or email idimambro@artspaceherndon.com for more.

APRIL 11-MAY 6

The Art of Resilience. 10-noon at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. An exhibit showcasing the artwork of Azriel and Irene Awret. Reception April 29, from 7-9 p.m. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9560 for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 12

Trends in TV Viewing. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Allan Hide from the Fairfax County's Department of Consumer and Cable Services will cover the "enabling devices" required to access television channel services. For adults, free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Excelling in Business and Labor Commission for Women honors trailblazers.

BY TIM PETERSON The Connection

onstance "Connie" Cordovilla remembers signing up for college courses in the mid-'60s and being interested in taking electrical engineering. "Nice girls go into English," her counselor told her. "What makes you think I'm a nice girl?" she said she responded.

Cordovilla is associate director, Human Rights and Community Relations, American Federation of Teachers (AFT), AFL-CIO. She was recognized as one of seven "Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business" for 2017 by the Fairfax County Commission for Women.

The recognition ceremony was rescheduled due to snow and held Wednesday, March 22 at the county government center.

Sondra Seba Hemenway, women's commission vice chair and at-large commissioner, said the evening was about recognizing how women had made significant contributions in labor and business, and had an impact on history and the lives of others. "Women have always worked, and not always been paid the same, or at all," Seba Hemenway said. "This year we've identified seven truly remarkable women" to recognize. This year was the first for which the commission accepted nominations for honorees. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said her path for being elected and serving as both a supervisor and chairman — as a woman — was made easier by "strong women who came before me." Previous chairs Jean Packard, Audrey Moore and Kate Hanley helped residents to be more comfortable with women representing them in local government.

"But there's still work to do," Bulova said. Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) added they need to "work to make certain, continue to see that everyone has the opportunity to excel."

"This year, women's rights and issues are



Seven women from around Fairfax County were recognized March 22 as "Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business" by the Fairfax County Commission for Women. From left are Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Siobhan Green, Ashley W. Chen, Connie Constance Cordovilla, Staci L. Redmon, Lovey Hammel, Patricia "Pat" Saah Bayliss, Board Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sondra Seba Hemenway.

front and center," said honoree Patricia "Pat" Saah Bayliss, former executive director, office manager and secretary, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). "These are some things we need to be more aware of."

Bulova and Hudgins helped present a Board of Supervisors proclamation naming March 2017 Virginia Women's History

In addition to Cordovilla and Saah Bayliss, the other award honorees include:

- ❖ Dolores Trevino-Gerber, First Vice President, NOVA Labor Federation; Secretary, Tenants-Workers United
- Staci L. Redmon, president, CEO and owner, Strategy and Management Services,
- ❖ Ashley W. Chen, president and CEO, ActioNet



Enterprises, Inc.

Siobhan Green, co-owner, CEO, Lead Technology and Open Data Strategist, Sonjara, Inc.

❖ Lovey Hammel, president, Employment

More information about the Commission For Women's 2017 honorees is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw.

Chairman

(right) and

Hudgins (D-

Hunter Mill),

left, helped

Sharon Bulova

Supervisor Cathy

present a Board

of Supervisors

proclamation

naming March

2017 Virginia

Women's History

Wings for All: Practice Flight at Dulles International

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tions coordinator who was on hand throughout the event, said that the airport and many of the airlines were pleased to accept training from Kymberly DeLoatche, The Arc of Northern Virginia's travel training project coordinator. As part of her duties, DeLoatche teaches airport personnel how best to interact with special needs passengers, how to alleviate many of their fears and make the experience the best possible for all.

Once everyone was safely belted in, the crew did their checks and the "flight" was underway, courtesy of an "engine-in-operation" soundtrack that was played over the PA system. Just a few minutes after "take-off" the cabin crew offered a beverage service.

When the "We've reached our cruising altitude" announcement was made, those able and who wished to do so were allowed to move about the cabin for some exploration. Flight attendant Rosemary Koenig said that airplane bathrooms have caused anxiety for some special needs passengers being such a small space, and equipped with louder-than-normal flushing mechanisms, so the fliers are welcomed to check them out during this travel walk-through.

There was one added bonus to the "Wings for All" journey that isn't part of a typical travel experience — the chance to visit the cockpit. Many braved the close quarters for a chance to see the heart of their flying machine, and a lucky few, like 16-year-old Julia Ferguson from Lorton, even climbed into the captain's seat and tried out the

AFTER THE ON-BOARD ADVENTURE,

the newly-minted air travelers returned to the main terminal and the baggage claim area — a few of the passengers had checked bags that were awaiting their arrival near Carousel 2 — and a luncheon where they were joined by many of the staff, volunteers and the crew of Flight 2839.

MWAA media relations specialist Andrew Tull, who also joined the day's "flight" hopes to help make more people aware of programs like "Wings for All." Rizza and Erwin Arc of Northern Lai of Fairfax only found out about the event a few days earlier, when they were researching the regulations regarding medications on flights. They want to take their 2-yearold son Ryle to visit their family in the Phil-

ippines. "It's a long flight and Ryle has a lot of medications," said Erwin Lai. "We were worried, so we looked it up and that is where we found out about this program." The Arc of Northern Virginia's DeLoatche urges the families of anyone with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to contact them for assistance for any of their needs, concerns or questions. A "Wings for All" event is planned for the fall at Reagan National Airport, so more special passengers can become real-life travelers. Learn more about The www.thearcofnova.org.

As for Felix Reges, he passed all steps of the simulated travel day with flying colors and is ready for that family trip to Colorado.