

Reston CONNECTION Nature House Breaks Ground

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Nancy Davis of Reston takes a look at the plans for the soon to be built Nature House at the Walker Nature Education Center in Reston.

'Now More Than Ever'

NEWS, PAGE 4

Community Orchestra Opens Season

CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION
Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D), Robin Smyers, Milton Matthews and state Del. Ken Plum (D-36) take part in a groundbreaking ceremony at the Walker Nature Education Center Nov. 19 in Reston.

“I always felt this day would come. It’s really a great feeling to be here.”
 — Chuck Veatch,
 Nature House donor



PHOTO BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC/
 THE CONNECTION
Lance Welch takes a box full of food items from Mark Perez as they help empty the truck.

Nature House Breaks Ground

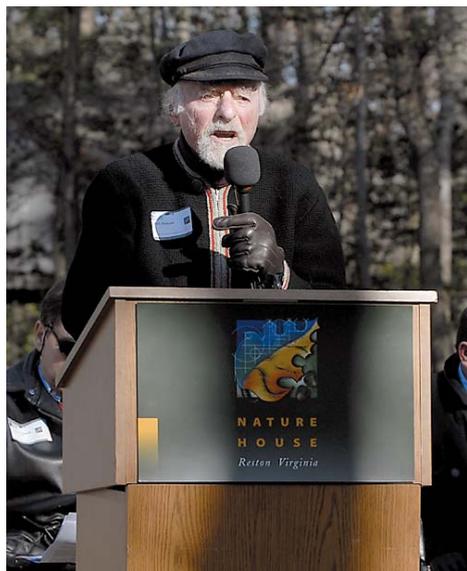
Forty-four-year vision, seven-year effort, comes to fruition.

BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC
 THE CONNECTION

Reston resident Chuck Veatch remembers the year 1964 well. It was a time of transformation in the area as the community of Reston was born and first businesses and residents began to move in.

“It was a terrific year,” Veatch, a local developer and nature conservationist, said. That same year, he said, the Audubon Society designed a nature program for Reston, which included three components. The last of the three components, a center that

SEE YEAR-ROUND, PAGE 5



Bob E. Simon praised the community effort to raise the funds for Nature House.



Chuck Veatch speaks during a groundbreaking ceremony.

Driven To Give

BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC
 THE CONNECTION

The employees at Sallie Mae’s Reston headquarters are not exactly sure when they started organizing Thanksgiving food drives for charity and that does not seem to matter. Instead of looking at the history of the drive, they are enthusiastic to be giving 520 boxes of food this year.

“The employees rally around this cause,” Erin Korsvall, the director of community outreach at Sallie Mae and vice president of its philanthropic arm, The Sallie Mae Fund, said. “That spirit

SEE GIVING, PAGE 10



Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins and state Del. Kenneth R. Plum (D-36) browse the many theme-decorated trees as part of the Junior League of Northern Virginia’s annual Enchanted Forest on Saturday morning in Reston.



Area families have their pictures taken with Santa while having breakfast as part of the annual Enchanted Forest fund-raiser for the Junior League of Northern Virginia on Saturday morning in Reston.

‘The Enchanted Forest’ in Reston

The Junior League of Northern Virginia, a women’s volunteer organization that empowers women to improve the Northern Vir-

ginia community, hosted the 8th annual The Enchanted Forest in Reston this past weekend, Nov. 22 and 23. The event, the organization’s largest annual fund-raiser,

took place in the Reston Sheraton and featured holiday festivities for the entire family, including entertainment and crafts for children. This year’s event also featured the

debut of the Children’s Science Center, the JLN’s signature project, which is scheduled to open in Reston in the fall of 2009.

WEEK IN RESTON

Reston Holiday Parade

The 18th annual Reston Holiday Parade will take place on Friday, Nov. 28, starting at 11 a.m. Macy's-style balloons, musical groups, dancers, antique cars and more will grace Market Street in Reston Town Center before the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Clause in a horse-drawn carriage. The theme for 2008 is animation, with huge cartoons portraying cartoon favorites. Community and school groups will again return to the parade, including the South Lakes High School Marching Band and the Langston Hughes Middle School cheerleaders. The Grand Marshal is Pat Macintyre, a Reston resident since 1968, named Reston Citizen of the Year in 1991 and a Best of Reston Award recipient in 1999.

Thanksgiving Charity Outreach

Nation Children, a nonprofit organization committed to helping low income families make a transition to self-dependency, is holding a charity outreach on Nov. 26 at Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The organization will be giving out clothing, shoes and accessories to children needing them on daily basis. It will also give out food items such as turkeys, vegetables and fruits. The event will be open to all but priority will be given to social service referrals. For more information visit www.nationchildren.org or call 703-463-9698.

UCP Thanksgiving Eve Service

The United Christian Parish is inviting the community to attend its annual community ecumenical interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday night, Nov. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive in Reston. Residents and community leaders will join representatives of various faith communities for the service. Refreshments will follow the service. For more information call the church office at 703-620-3065.

FISH Holiday Food and Gift Boxes

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., is seeking non-perishable food donations for the Thanksgiving and December food boxes. The goal is to provide food for 650 people, about 200 families, for each of the two months. Donations are also needed to buy a \$10 grocery store gift certificate for each box. Gift donations are requested for children, from infants to teenagers, for the December food and gift boxes. Gift cards are preferable for the teens. Volunteers are welcome to help collect, sort, pack and deliver food boxes on Dec. 15-18 at 11484 Washington Plaza West, Room 140, in Reston. To donate food and gifts, request food pickup or volunteer, contact Holiday Coordinator Robyn Kampf at 571-926-8019 or rhkampf@gmail.com. Tax-deductible donations can be made to Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, VA 20170. Please indicate the check is for the holiday baskets.

Run With Alan Webb

The 8th Annual "Run With Alan Webb" benefit fun-run for Neediest Kids will be held at Reston Town Center on Friday, Nov. 28, a day after Thanksgiving. Webb, an Olympian and U.S. record-holder for the fastest mile at 3 minutes 46 seconds will lead the races for children through high school age. A suggested donation of \$5 is encouraged for participation with proceeds benefiting Neediest Kids. Advance registration and more information are available by e-mail at info@neediestkids.org and at www.neediestkids.org. On the day of the race, check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. and races start at 8:30 a.m. Several races by age category, including a "tot trot" will be held. Webb, a 2001 South Lakes High School graduate, has led the annual run since its inception in 2001, when he was a freshman in college. More than 600 children participated in the 2007 event.



Volunteers help prepare meals for guests of last year's hypothermia shelter at the North County Human Services Building in Reston.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RESTON INTERFAITH

'Now More Than Ever'

North County hypothermia shelter in Reston opens December 1.

BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC
THE CONNECTION

Meghan Germas faced a difficult situation last winter. Homeless and late in her pregnancy, Germas and her boyfriend Jory, working 70-plus hour weeks, were told on March 12 that if they did not have a home by the time their daughter was born, the county would put her in foster care.

With three boys already in foster care, Germas did not wish to see another child of hers in the program. "We have had a very hard life and the latest challenges began when we placed our three boys in Foster Care in 2007," she wrote in a testimonial for FACETS (Fairfax Area Christian Emergency & Transitional Services, Inc.). Germas and her boyfriend entered the Hypothermia Prevention Response program in the central part of Fairfax County, coordinated by FACETS, in February. "Being in the hypothermia shelter gave us a place to sleep at night. It also gave us a meal twice a day and people to talk to and just vent about the general frustrations we were facing," Germas wrote in the testimonial.

Germas was one of 724 people served in the hypothermia prevention program, a partnership between Fairfax County, nonprofit organizations and faith communities, from December 2007 through March 2008. More than 2,300 volunteers from 57 faith communities and 13 nonprofit and business organizations served last winter's program. Intended to do all that is possible to prevent hypothermia deaths in the winter, the county's hypothermia program is entering its fifth year of service this week in the central part of the County and next week in the northern part. Reston Interfaith runs the North County hypothermia center at the Cameron Glen Human Services Building in Reston. The center will operate from Dec. 1 to March 15.

"I WANT TO SERVE those who are in need," said Patti Schule, a Herndon resident and a member of Herndon United Methodist Church. Schule has been coordinating volunteers from her church to serve

Homeless in Fairfax County and cities of Falls Church and Fairfax:
JAN. 24, 2008

Individuals	744
Persons in Families	1,091
Adults	414*
Children	670*
Total Families	311
Average Family Size	3.5

* Seven people were of uncertain age

Poverty and Income	Individuals	Families
	#'s	%
Poverty level and below	502	86
Poverty to 50% of med. inc.	72	12
Above 50% of median income	4	1

- ❖ Of those who reported income, 93% of individuals had an annual income of less than \$15,000 and 83% of the families had an annual income of less than \$30,000
- ❖ Fair market rent for one-bedroom apartment was \$1,168 and the median family income was \$99,000
- ❖ 39% of all persons age 18 and over were employed full or part time

TREND

Year	Individuals	Persons in Families	Total
2004	615	1,085	1,700
2005	564	1,111	1,675
2006	667	1,099	1,766
2007	730	1,083	1,813
2008	744	1,091	1,835

SOURCE: The Point in Time Survey, conducted on Jan. 24, 2008

meals and converse with the guests at the North County hypothermia center, entering its third year, since it began operating. "When I go to the shelter I see how much it means to the guests," said Schule.

While the center benefits the guests by taking them out of the cold nights into a shelter and feeding them, the volunteers also benefit from it. "It really helps build my personal self-esteem," said Schule.

"We just get a really good warm feeling" volunteering at the hypothermia shelter, said Sandee Byrne, a Vienna resident who attends the Northern Virginian Hebrew Congregation in Reston. Byrne said she and her husband, who is not of the Jewish faith, sought a cause to volunteer for that would serve the general community when they chose to become involved with the hypothermia center. "We wanted to do something for the community that is not religious-based," said Byrne.

The center at Cameron Glen, which has the capac-

Year-Round Teaching on Nature

FROM PAGE 3

would serve as a resource for residents and other community members to interpret their natural surroundings, came to fruition on Wednesday morning, Nov. 19, when ground was broken on the Nature House at the Walker Nature Education Center.

"I always felt this day would come," Veatch, the first of more than 1,000 donors in a seven-year fund-raising effort for Nature House, said. "It's really a great feeling to be here," he said, addressing about 100 people gathered in the cold weather for the groundbreaking.

NATURE HOUSE will make possible year-round offering of programs at the 72-acre Walker Nature Education Center on Glade Drive. Once built, the structure will boast a multipurpose room with laboratory space, a public resource room with a library and office space for the center's staff among other features. "It will be LEED Gold certified," Joe Ritchey, a member of the Friends of Reston board, the organization that led the seven-year fund-raising effort for Nature House, said. The LEED

(Leadership in Environmental Design) certification is administered through the United States Green Building Council.

"Nature House will once again position Reston as a leader and model for other communities to emulate," Robin Smyers, Reston Association (RA) president, said. "Thank you to the entire community for this gift."

John Gasson, president of Friends of Reston, said the fact that more than 1,000 individuals and businesses contributed to the seven-year fund-raising effort was amazing. "This is a community partnership to get something done," Gasson said. When the effort first began in 2001, construction cost of Nature House was estimated at \$750,000. Friends of Reston raised more than \$1.5 million, double the original amount, to break ground in late 2008 because of escalating construction costs.

Several speakers at Wednesday's ceremony credited Reston founder Bob Simon for having the vision to include the nature center in Reston's original Master Plan in 1962. Simon, in turn, credited the community effort to raise the

funds for Nature House. In particular, he credited Veatch, Ritchey and Jim Cleveland as the people with the financial wherewithal to lead the effort. In addition, he commended Veatch for engineering the deal that brought another natural project, the restoration of streambeds, to Reston.

WHILE THE ATTENDEES celebrated the groundbreaking for the future Nature House, they also learned the fate of the existing structure at the Walker Nature Education Center. More than 90 percent of that building will be recycled for secondary uses. "How many times did I hear 'Where is the center, this is just bathrooms,'" Nancy Herwig, the past manager of the education center, said. Since the 72-acre center's inception in 1987, Herwig said 3,000 programs have been offered with 80,000 people participating. Nature House, she said, will enable the staff at the center to offer those programs year-round and bring even more people to the center.

Katie Shaw, the standing Nature Center manager, expressed her gratitude to the community for having raised the funds.

Reston Community Center BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Reston Community Center Board of Governors and respective Committees will meet on the following dates in DECEMBER 2008:

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING (RCC HUNTERS WOODS)	DECEMBER 1 • 8:00 P.M.
PROGRAM POLICY COMMITTEE (RCC HUNTERS WOODS)	DECEMBER 8 • 7:00 P.M.
FINANCE COMMITTEE (RCC HUNTERS WOODS)	DECEMBER 15 • 6:00 P.M.

Dates subject to change. Please check website prior to attending.



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OPINION

Shop Locally Local shops help define community, and this year, they need local support.

The economic situation is daunting, and it's probably true that most families, even families who feel financially secure, will be more frugal in this holiday season than in the past.

But we're pretty sure that almost all of us will be doing some significant holiday shopping in the next month. While you're at it, be sure to spend a portion of your shopping dollars close to home.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of the shopping in some of the area's locally

owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Small retail shops are part of what defines any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. The costs of being in business have grown tremendously while revenues are not.

Competition from Big Box stores, expanded shopping malls and the Internet make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. In this area, almost everyone will do some shopping via the Internet.

But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

Give Locally

EDITORIALS

Local charities seeing unprecedented demand from struggling families for food and other help.

Putting food on the table for the family. It's such a basic activity and most of us are lucky enough to make choices of what we'll buy at the grocery store, whether this is a carry-out night or an eat-out night one or more days a week.

Meanwhile local charities and food banks are finding it hard to gather enough food to keep up with the demand from people who are suddenly unable to afford enough food to put on the table for their families.

Housing costs, the foreclosure crisis, spiking energy and food costs over the past year and other economic woes have put a tremendous strain on working poor families in Northern Virginia.

Included in The Connection over the past few weeks and in coming weeks are stories and listings of local organizations that help local families in need and especially nonprofit groups that provide help to families during the holiday season. These organizations report that

To Help

- ♦ **Reston Interfaith**, 571-323-9555
- ♦ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105
- ♦ **Northern Virginia Family Service**, Oakton, 703-385-3267

while demand is up dramatically, contributions are down. They need your help to respond to increasingly needy families.

Here is a partial listing of local organizations that help the needy, every one is facing intense and increasing demand for services. Read more at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Much to Be Thankful For

BY ROBIN SMYERS
PRESIDENT, RESTON ASSOCIATION

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays — being surrounded by family and friends to celebrate all we have is one of the greatest gifts. At Reston Association, we have much to be thankful for this year.

Reston Association has the most energetic and dedicated group of volunteers. Each year, more than 100 people volunteer for special programs and events. Because so many people freely give their time and enthusiasm, events that make Reston a wonderful place to play — such as the Reston Festival, Halloween Trail, Nature House Fund Run and open space beautification days, just to name a few — are successful. Our volunteers are always willing to be involved in important community issues including Dulles Rail, Reston's Master Plan review, stream restoration, environmental stewardship and other concerns that impact our quality of life.

I believe the reason we have so many volunteers is because Reston is such a welcoming community. I see that at our Newcomer's Night, where long-time residents come to welcome our new neighbors to the community. Each Newcomer's Night reaffirms my love of this community and allows us to share that passion with our newest neighbors.

We are fortunate to have partnerships with Fairfax

County, Reston Community Center, Reston Interfaith and others who work in, and support, our community. By working together, we are able to provide programs and services in Reston that continue to make our community the best place to live, work, and play in Northern Virginia.

As a member and volunteer, I want to thank our tireless and dedicated staff. Our programs, services and ability to focus on our community would not be possible without them. Many of RA's staff volunteer and give back to our community by participating in Relay for Life, Reston Interfaith fund-raising events and other programs that support the needs of our community.

Last, but not least, after several years of planning and the dedication of countless people in the community, we have just broken ground for the Nature House at the Walker Nature Education Center. Once completed, Nature House will be the home for RA's nature education programs and events for many years to come. Thank you to all who have supported this important effort and helped us to realize one of the last cornerstones of Bob Simon's vision.

Reston is truly a community where people get involved and that's what makes it so special. Regardless of what else is going on, our members and our partners always come through to support Reston Association. Thank you to everyone who is a part of this wonderful place called Reston.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stream Restoration Benefits Community

To the Editor:

In a recent edition of The Connection, there was a letter to the editor titled "Stream Project is Re-Design Not Restoration" in which the author tried to conclusively argue that Reston's Stream Restoration Project (Project) has progressed with little resident involvement. Actually, no Reston Association (RA) communitywide initiative, with the possible exception of the Nature House, has had more press and publicity for as long as the ongoing efforts to restore the many miles of stream channels in the Reston community.

Starting with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2003, the Project has been the subject of numerous news

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

THE CONNECTION

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OPINION

Happy Thanksgiving

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

The nation was in the midst of civil strife when in October, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November to be a day of national Thanksgiving. While acknowledging that the country was "in the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity" Lincoln looked beyond the immediate conflict to the "fruitful fields and healthful skies" and the prosperity the country was realizing outside the war zone and called upon the nation to give "praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

Our nation is facing significant challenges of a different nature today. Our major financial institutions are in doubt; two wars test our resolve and strain our resources; there are too many poor among the wealthiest on our planet; there are too many people dying without ever seeing a doctor at a time and place when there is the best health care ever known in the history of mankind; our civil liberties have been compromised; and there is strife among peoples of the world.

As Lincoln suggested, we need to take a day to look beyond the challenges of our time to see hope for the future. Our institutions are resilient; our people are compassionate. We can learn from recent



experiences and build a stronger and more inclusive country. We have just completed an historic election whose results give us reason to hope. President George Washington issued a presidential proclamation of Thanksgiving in 1789 in which he gave thanks "for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish Constitutions of Government for our safety and happiness." We can add to our list of thanks this year the maturing of our form of government and the progress towards establishing a more perfect Union.

There has been an established tradition going back to ancient times to have a celebration of the harvest in the fall. Our Thanksgiving tables reflect that tradition with the bounty of the crops. The feast held by the Pilgrims in Plymouth colony in 1621 reflected that tradition. "Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling, so that we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labor," Edward Winslow, one of the Pilgrims, wrote.

The country's first Thanksgiving was held at Berkeley Plantation in Virginia in 1619 when the day of the arrival of the ships was established to be "yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving." Today we all celebrate as one the bounty of our crops, the strength of our people and institutions and our hopes for the future while giving thanks to the Supreme Being we worship. Jane and I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Dangers of 'Fairness Doctrine'

BY JACK KENNY
PAST PRESIDENT,
REPUBLICAN CLUB OF GREATER RESTON

One of the proposals high on the agenda of the new Democrat-controlled Congress is the Fairness Doctrine. It is supposed to go something like this: radio stations must offer time for talk shows to one political philosophy as to the other. The bill, as presently structured is aimed at a small number of quite successful conservative talk-radio hosts — Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham to mention a few.

Evidently the Democrats view these few hours on nationally syndicated radio as a threat to their government. Sen. Chuck Schumer has characterized these shows as pornography and "smut." Perhaps referring to the speaker of the house as "Stretch" Pelosi — a recognition of the nips and tucks that help her maintain a youthful face — is a bit disrespectful but Leno, Letterman and Saturday Night Live do keep one entertained. One would wonder just what is wrong with a small portion of radio media questioning the actions of liberals or pointing out the consequences of the opponent's philosophy, legislation, actions, activity or whatever.

Is it not that what this country is all about? Should this bill pass, there is no doubt the White House will sign it. The fear is that radio station owners will can-



A DIFFERING
POINT OF VIEW

cel these shows as they will be forced to include other shows more friendly to liberals: Alan Colmes, where are you? There are a few out there but, for some reason, do not enjoy the listening audience that sells products — in other words not revenue producing. Maybe, just maybe, their message is somehow muddled and listeners just do not bother to tune them in. Good old capitalism is, as it should be, at work here.

The danger is the slippery slope phenomenon. What may be a bill aimed at a small segment of one media can soon be applied to other media. Would we have the print media be required to offer half of their opinion page(s) to a different political philosophy? Would we have some government commission (like the FCC) decide if each edition of each newspaper contains the requisite balance of "fairness" as directed by law. As it stands now, they are proposing to review the programming schedules of radio. Is TV next? Good-bye Tom Brokaw!

This writer wonders how long it would take The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, and, I trust The Connection Newspapers to charge up the steps of the Supreme Court indignant that the Congress so blatantly violated the First Amendment. I would submit that the Fairness Doctrine, while an ingenious approach to silencing criticism of the Left is Dead on Arrival should it pass the Congress.



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CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

Senior Movie Day. Reston Association presents a feature film at 10 a.m. at the Multiplex Cinema, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to the movie. Free to those 55+. Call 703-435-6530.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Holiday Celebration. Celebrate the Holidays at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Stores open at 8 a.m.; at 8:30 children run with Alan Webb, U.S. record-holder for fastest mile; 11 a.m., Reston Holiday Parade; 12:30-4:30 p.m., visits with Santa; 6 p.m., tree lighting; 6:30-10 p.m., horse-drawn carriage rides. Visit www.restontowncenter.com.

Carol Sing-Along. The Reston Chorale will perform at 6 p.m. at the Reston Town Center in front of the tree on Market Street. Free. Visit info@restonchorale.org.

Reston Holiday Parade. The Reston Town Center presents the 18th annual Reston Holiday Parade 11:00 AM, launching the festive season with Macy's-style balloons, musical groups, dancers, antique cars and more in a one-hour parade along Market Street.

Thanksgiving Story. An interactive retelling of the Thanksgiving Story will be held at Frying Pan Farm Park's Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon, 11-11:40 a.m. Recommended for ages 3 and up. \$4/person. Prepaid reservations are



Carol Sing-Along

The Reston Chorale, accompanied by a brass quintet, will continue a Reston holiday tradition and bring in the holiday season with the annual tree lighting ceremony and the arrival of Santa Claus at the Reston Town Center on Nov. 28, at 6 p.m. The event is free.

required; call 703-437-9101.

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Visit Santa. Visit Santa and take photos with him on next to M&S Grill on Democracy St. at the Reston Town Center, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Artist Demos. Artist demos will be shown at the Reston Art Gallery and Studios in Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Call 703-481-8156.

SUNDAY/NOV. 30

Visit Santa. Visit Santa and take photos with him on next to M&S Grill on Democracy St. at the Reston Town Center, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

Creation Station. A workshop for children entitled "The Shapes of Sound" will be held in the Reston Arts

Center in Reston Town Center from 3:30-5 p.m. Call 703-471-9242 to register.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

Explore More! The Greater Reston Arts Center Learning Center at Reston Town Center has self-guided tours and art activities for children during gallery hours. \$3/art bucket restocking fee for individuals; \$5/groups. Call 703-471-9242 for

reservations.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

Holiday Mini-Book Sale. Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Mini-Book Sale. Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700.

Art Exhibition. Meet the artists and see Lee Gainer's work "The Thought That Counts" and Huguette Roe's "Recycle Series" on exhibit at the Greater Reston Arts Center in Reston Town Center, 6-8 p.m. Call 703-471-9242 or visit www.restonarts.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Holiday Mini-Book Sale. Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700.

Visit Santa. Visit Santa and take photos with him on next to M&S Grill on Democracy St. at the Reston Town Center, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Holiday Celebration. Lake Anne is celebrating the holidays with a petting zoo, entertainment, ornament making and a visit from Santa at Lake Anne Village Center in Reston. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Visit lakeanneplaza.com for details.

A Seasonal Celebration. The Reston Chorale will perform at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Reston Community Center. \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and youth. Visit www.restonchorale.org.

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Reston Community Orchestra Opens Season

'Great Music for Great Community' Performed

By DR. MICHAEL MCKEE
SPECIAL FOR THE CONNECTION

The Reston Community Orchestra (RCO) opened its 2008-09 season last Sunday. Musical anniversaries were commemorated, fascinating relationships were explored, fine music was presented and an audience-pleasing pair of internationally known local artists was begged into playing two encores.

Performing at the newly reopened Reston Community Center, the afternoon concert drew a full house from Reston and surrounding communities. The Hunters Woods Village site was filled with over 200 supporters of good music and the entire event was complimentary. The RCO, under the direction of Maestro Fleary, fulfilled its promise to provide "Great Music for a Great Community."

The theme of the season was reflected in the opening number, a symphony by Franz Josef Haydn.



Maestro Fleary and the RCO accept the applause of the crowd at the RCC.

The orchestra was honoring the 200th anniversary of his death and will be playing one of his compositions at many of their concerts during 2008-09. An even better known composer, Mozart, who dedicated some of his works to Haydn, was next on the program.

Following intermission, everyone was presented with a wonderful treat — "Marcolivia." The duo of Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff, playing violin and viola respectively, astounded the audience. After receiving a standing ovation for their piece, they were cajoled into

performing two crowd-pleasing encores. A young Reston girl, Lilly Dunlap, then presented Hajioff with a large bouquet of red roses.

The afternoon concluded with the melodic and lovely "Merry Wives of Windsor" by Stamitz. This German romantic piece had the audience humming as they left for home. The RCO will perform more free concerts in 2009 on Jan. 17 (the annual MLK event), March 15 (a tribute to Robert E. Simon, Jr.), April 25 (the Spring "Pops" fundraiser concert) and June 6 (the Youth Education concert).



The RCO's own "Flower Girl," Lilly Dunlap, presented roses to Olivia Hajioff.

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NEWS

Giving In 'Particularly Difficult' Year

FROM PAGE 3

is shared at all levels of the company."

Korsvall said the increased need for charitable giving in the current economic climate has motivated Sallie Mae employees to devote a great deal of attention to this year's drives. "Employees understand this year is a particularly difficult one," Korsvall said.

"This is an opportunity to give back to the community and we are happy to do this," Juan Machado, a Sallie Mae employee, said as he was helping deliver the boxes of food to the Reston Interfaith drive at St. John Neumann Catholic

Church in Reston.

"I absolutely love helping everyone I can," Dawn Burd, also a Sallie Mae employee, said. "Families deserve a chance to be together at the table and to have a Thanksgiving dinner together."

Alexandra Robbins of Reston Interfaith said the organization's goal is to deliver 1,800 food baskets to feed 900 families after the two-day drive. As of Friday morning, the second day of the drive, Robbins said a couple of hundred of individuals and families had contributed to the drive as well as schools, religious organizations and more than 50 businesses. "We

are seeing a greater need for services this year, especially in our emergency services and self sufficiency program," Robbins said. The organization's food pantry is administered through the program.

Sallie Mae donated 400 boxes to the Reston Interfaith Thanksgiving Food Basket drive and the remaining 120 to a similar drive the Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help) organized. Along with the 520 boxes, the company donated \$10,400 in gift cards so the families receiving the boxes could buy ham or turkey for their Thanksgiving dinner.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

letter and newspaper articles, Comcast cable spots and has had a continual presence on RA's Web site. At least 10 meetings have been held — all open to the public — to provide status reports to the RA board of directors and the Design Review Board (DRB). Since actual construction on Phase 1 of the Project began in February of this year, a community meeting has been held and there have been many "stream walks" led by staff from RA and the contractor, Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. (WSSI).

RA has a long-standing and well-earned reputation as a committed steward of Reston's natural resources. By undertaking the development of a watershed management plan that quantified the severity of the stream erosion and water quality problems, Reston was uniquely positioned to take advantage of the opportunity to have many of its severely eroded stream channels restored to a stable, more ecologically diverse and aesthetically pleasing condition at no cost to the community. And, the cost is quite substantial

with estimates for construction at approximately \$900/linear foot. There are additional direct financial benefits to the community, such as close to \$3 million in new bridges, fees paid to RA and the Friends of Reston as stream credits are sold and the creation of a catastrophic event fund in the amount of \$5 million. Further, there will be a significant reduction in stream bank erosion as a result of the restoration; thus, providing the benefit of longer intervals between the dredging of each of our four lakes, which will save considerable dollars.

In addition to the direct financial benefits to the community, there will be many equally impressive benefits to the environment, both in Reston and downstream from Reston. One example of a benefit to the environment is the "by design" installation of wide and shallow streambeds in each reach. These designs simulate healthy and stable stream systems, which permit channel configurations that allow larger flood flows to once again be connected with the surrounding floodplain, slowing velocities and enabling vegeta-

tion to settle out and uptake pollutants. With the newly restored streams in place, the channel banks can and will vegetate, not only providing increased pollutant removal but also a significantly improved habitat that is virtually absent in the existing stream channels. All vegetation planted is native, including the trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.

The Stream Restoration Project will be a multiyear effort that will eventually see many miles of stream channels in the Reston community returned to their natural state and fulfilling their naturally intended purpose. The completion of this Project is essential to the quality of life for all residents in Reston and paramount to the mission of the Reston Association, which is to protect and extend the life of the many environmental amenities in which it has been entrusted.

The Reston Association wants all residents of the community to monitor and be knowledgeable of this Project. However, for this to happen, the portrayal of the Project must be based on the facts. These facts are readily available and the staffs at RA and WSSI eagerly await your inquiries and other expressed interest in the Project. The next opportunity to meet and discuss the Project is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 2, starting at 7 p.m., in the Main Conference Room at the Reston Association's offices at 1930 Isaac Newton Square.

For all RA news, I encourage you to visit our Web site: www.reston.org for updates on all our activities and to sign up for eNotices: www.reston.org/enotices.

Robin Smyers
President,
Reston Association

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Bargain Loft To Open Holiday Shop

Sales support those in need.

The Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help) is facing great demand for services. According to Marcia Di Trapani, the nonprofit's president, there were 58 percent more requests for assistance with utilities in October of 2008 than last October.

"It wasn't as cold as last year," Di Trapani said. She said the economic situation of those seeking help is the driving force behind the increase in the demand for assistance.

According to Herndon-Reston FISH figures, requests for rent and utilities assistance have tripled in the last six weeks. Some 90 percent of those calls are coming from first-time callers and the gravity and desperation of the callers are worse than seen in the last 20 years. So far, said Di Trapani, Herndon-Reston FISH has been able to meet the demand.

In order to bolster its ability to continue to meet the demand, the nonprofit is opening the annual



PHOTO COURTESY OF HERNDON-RESTON FISH

The Bargain Loft Holiday Shop is opening Tuesday, Dec. 2.

holiday sale at its thrift store, the Bargain Loft. The Bargain Loft Holiday Shop opens Tuesday, Dec. 2, and runs through Saturday, Dec. 22. "November and December are our biggest months as far as donations go," Di Trapani said.

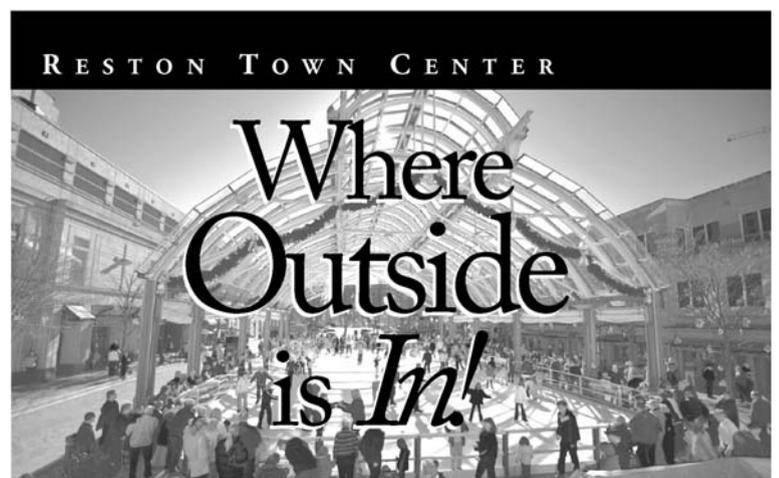
"It matters a lot," she said, that people shop at the Bargain Loft Holiday Shop this season, as that money then becomes available for Herndon-Reston FISH to provide assistance.

The store is offering a 10 per-

cent discount to shoppers who bring in a Bargain Loft ad from the local newspapers.

The Bargain Loft is located at 336 Victory Drive in Herndon. The store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The store will expand its hours on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will try to stay open later than usual on Thursdays to allow time for customers to visit.

— MIRZA KURSPAHC



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Rising Demand for Assistance

FROM PAGE 4

ity to serve 25 people per night, served more than 150 individuals last winter. "It's really the volunteers and the community that make it the program it is," said Susan Stolpe, a volunteer manager at Reston Interfaith. "They are showing through their actions that this population is a part of our community," said Stolpe. "The community's involvement is so important because their participation makes an immediate, concrete difference in the lives of the guests," she said. "Ensuring that guests receive a warm meal, a warm place to sleep and a warm smile is a unique opportunity for the volunteers and an invaluable contribution to the guests." Stolpe added that Reston Interfaith is still looking for community members to participate in this winter's hypothermia program.

"I'M GUESSING we're going to have even more demand this year," said Schule, referring to the number of guests who will seek shelter at the center this winter. One of the indicators that more people may do so is the increase in demand for services from local nonprofits. Reston Interfaith's emergency services and self-sufficiency program and Herndon-Reston FISH's (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help) rent and utility assistance program are both experiencing a great increase in demand. Jim Brigl, the CEO of FACETS, said the nonprofit's Hot Meals program, which delivers meals to homeless, is serving 25 percent more people this year than last. The average last year, he said, was about 100 meals per

day, now it is closer to 125 meals. "Once, we served 166 meals," said Brigl of this year's demand.

Brigl encouraged Fairfax County residents to participate in this winter's hypothermia program to care for the homeless, fellow county residents. "They are a part of our community," said Brigl.

"A lot of them have jobs," said Schule of the homeless served in the North County hypothermia center. "They are very respectable people who work hard," she said.

Byrne has been encouraging people to serve at the center for three years and says that those who listen to her return to serve. She tells them, "Just come one night and serve and see how you feel."

"The whole thing is, now more than ever," said Brigl. "The need is now more than ever and the need for participation is now more than ever."

Brigl said that the nonprofits working on behalf of the county's homeless are advocating better housing situations, not just emergency prevention through the hypothermia program. "We want that to be permanent housing," he said.

Germas is one success story of that advocacy. Upon learning that she may have to place her daughter in foster care if she did not secure housing, Germas turned to FACETS and the nonprofit managed to find an apartment in Fairfax for Germas and her family. She, her boyfriend and daughter Emma, born in April, recently moved into a town home in Falls Church. Now they are preparing for a hearing to bring their three boys home from foster care in hopes of celebrating the December holidays under the same roof.

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SPORTS

ROUNDUPS

The **Reston Triathlon Association** has decided on a date of registration for the 2009 Reston Triathlon, which will take place Sunday, Sept. 13. Triathletes can only register on-line for this event Monday, Dec. 1, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Go to the Web site at restontriathlon.org for full information. Cost is \$125 for USAT members and \$135 for registration and one day USAT membership. The race is a 1-mile swim in Lake Audubon, 22.3-mile bike ride on rolling Reston roads and a 10K run on shaded Reston pathways. The race starts at the Lake Audubon boat ramp and ends at the South Lakes High School stadium.

The following **South Lakes High** football players were recently named to the All-Liberty District team: Josh Anderson (second team linebacker), Kevin Ball (second team offensive tackle and second team defensive tackle), JaJuan Jones (second team running back), Quintin Fortes (honorable mention defensive end), Shaun Khan (honorable mention linebacker), Brandon Price (honorable mention running back) and Ed Reed (honorable mention linebacker).

On Sunday, Dec. 7, the MAC Powered by **SRAM Cyclocross Series**, one of the richest and most internationally influential cyclocross series in America, returns to Lake Fairfax Park in Reston, for the Capital Cross Classic presented by The Bike Lane.

Cyclocross is a high-speed bicycle race that takes place on undulating, serpentine courses through streets and fields of parks, farms and estates. Riding bikes that look like typical road bikes, racers compete on short, easy to watch courses that see them hurling down a road at nearly 40 miles per hour one minute and jumping off their bikes to carry them at a full run over a barricade or other obstacle the next. The races are shorter and more intense than other forms of bike racing.

USA gymnast **Justin Spring**, an Olympian medallist, is coming to the Northern Virginia Gymnastics Academy, Friday, Nov. 28. Come watch Spring give a short demonstration at 11:30 a.m. There will also be autograph and photo sessions. For more information, contact NVGA at 703-430-5434.

Virginia Military Institute (VMI) freshman **Tyler Hutchens** of Herndon placed fourth in the 133-weight class category at the recent Hokie Open wrestling tournament in Salem. Hutchens was the Keydets' lone place-winner at the 20-plus team event that included schools from the ACC and CAA. Hutchens' brother, **Joel**, finished 12th at 149 pounds.

"Several of the 11 'rats' who competed on Sunday were unceremoniously welcomed to the world of Division I wrestling," said VMI head coach John Trudgeon. "This can and must be a motivator for them. Tyler and Joel Hutchens won five and four matches, respectively, including several close, hard-fought, one-point matches, which will help their confidence."

Tyler Hutchens began his day by drop-



The 95-pound Reston Seahawks recently captured the National Division championship of the Fairfax County Youth Football League (FCYFL) playoffs. The locals defeated the Fort Belvoir Bulldogs, 18-12, in the title game.



The Reston Youth Association (RYA) ankle-biters captured the FCYFL title a few weeks ago by defeating the Southwestern Youth Association Wildcats, 18-14, in the championship game. Seven of RYA's 11 teams qualified for the Fairfax County league playoffs this season and four of those teams made it to the finals.

ping a 9-5 decision to UNC Greensboro's Angel Garcia. The freshman then went on an impressive run, winning five-straight matches. He scored a decision against Appalachian State's Lawrence White, then posted a technical fall victory over King's Jason Ricker. He then advanced on a default, before winning a 4-3 decision over Liberty's Cameron Hurd. Following another default win, Hutchens dropped a 9-2 decision to Carson-Newman's Kody Pierson after defeating Pierson only a week earlier.

Joel Hutchens also lost his first match, dropping a major decision to Duke's Mike Bell. Hutchens rebounded to defeat teammate Richard Crozier, 6-5, before pinning King's Chris Dice. He then scored an 8-2 decision over Virginia's Sam

McGregor before knocking off Adam Broda of Virginia Tech, 5-3. Hutchens' run came to an end with a 9-7 loss to King's Phil Ramirez.

HERN Fusion is seeking motivated players looking for the opportunity to improve their skills and to work hard on an emerging team. Year-round training/competition with Fusion's new coach, USSF "B" licensed Jamie Rayner. To schedule a tryout, contact Jean Knotts at smknotts@verizon.net or at 703-266-7268. Visit the team at herndonfusion.com.

Jefferson High freshman Sarah Stites of Reston placed first in a race at the USA Track and Field Virginia Association Youth Division competition, held in Mechanicsville on Nov. 15. Stites completed the 4K race in 15 minutes, 25 seconds, 22 seconds. The win qualified her for the USATF National Cross Country Championships, set to take place Dec. 13.

Curl-Burke Swimmers participated at the Harvest Moon Invitational, held at the Herndon Community Center Oct. 11-12.

The meet was for 9- through 12-year-old girls and boys. Swimmers competed in six events for the Full Moon award or the Half Moon award.

Results from the meets were as follows: Grant DeWitt, second place 9 year olds; Benjamin Caprio, fourth place, 9 year olds; Sarah Saunders, second place, 9 year olds; Sean Bergmann, sixth place, 10 year olds; Francesca King, second place, 10 year olds; Rachel Tao, ninth place, 10 year olds; Celia Gieser, 15th place, 10 year olds; Natalie Schultz, 20th place, 10 year olds; William Lin, third place, 11 year olds; Justin Touve, seventh place, 11 year old; Kyle Sanok, 10th place, 11 year olds; Andi Mack, third place, 11 year olds; Julia Capobianco, sixth place, 11 year olds; Julia Ruttenberg, 18th place, 11 year olds; Brandon Harvey, first place, 12 year olds; Dante Webster, fourth place, 12 year olds; Janet Hu, first place, 12 year olds; Courtney Cantrick, seventh place, 12 year olds; Audrey Caprio, eighth place, 12 year olds; Malachy McGann, second place, 9 year olds; Alyssa Coon, second place, 9 year olds; Dennis Lai, first place, 10 year olds; Palmer Lloyd, fourth place; Jacob Auerbach, sixth place; Helena Wang, first place, 10 year olds; Katelyn Leidy, third place, 10 year olds; Heather Stone, fourth place, 10 year olds; John Shebat 11-year olds; Nathan Pawlowicz, third place, 11 year olds; Lucas Lin, fourth place, 11 year olds; Alexander Wendt, 11th place, 11 year olds; Kiri Harvey, third place, 11 year olds; Claire Collins, fourth place, 11 year olds; Tess Kulikowski, 13th place, 11 year olds; Andrew Seliskar, first place, 12 year olds; Denny Nguyen, third place, 12 year olds; Alexander Strait, fifth place, 12 year olds; Alex Li, sixth place, 12 year olds; Will Kemmerer, 11th place, 12 year olds; Annika Kollevoll, sixth place, 12 year olds; Katie Dingman, seventh place, 12 year olds; Lizzie Abeles, 10th place, 12 year olds.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET**

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$150.0 million budget for calendar year 2009.

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2009 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$150.0 million in 2009. Water sales are expected to provide \$125.1 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2008	2009
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$40,719	\$42,788
Power and Utilities	11,015	13,191
Chemicals	9,288	10,625
Fuel	989	1,028
Postage	419	449
Insurance	1,254	1,289
Supplies and Materials	3,492	3,694
Contractual Services	6,109	6,797
Professional Services	1,321	1,364
Other	1,964	1,981
Sub-Total	76,570	83,206
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(8,574)	(8,667)
Total	\$67,996	\$74,539

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$37,687,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$25,710,000

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**NOTICE OF WATER RATE
PUBLIC HEARING**

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2009, include the following:

1. An increase in the availability charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$6,400 to \$7,600.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$800 to \$850†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$28 to \$29.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$6.25 to \$7.05†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$1.70 to \$1.83 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$2.65 to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off/Turn On Charge from \$40 to \$42.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. An increase in the Sewer Use Meters Charge from \$36 to \$37
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$13 to \$14.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

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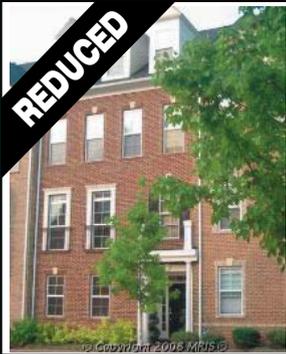


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