

South Lakes' Travis Williams (3) goes up for a shot as Herndon's Zack Ozycz (20) guards him during last Friday night's early season boys basketball contest between the rival Seahawks and Hornets. South Lakes, the home team, was a 73-68 winner.

## Soaring Seahawks

SPORTS, PAGE 20

Navigating  
Budget  
Challenge

NEWS, PAGE 3

Google  
Searches for  
Ways to Help

NEWS, PAGE 3

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**“Any community they move into, it’s instant recognition and instant credibility to other companies of the same stripe and color.”**

— Jerry Gordon, president, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority



A crowd turned out for the community open house at Google's new office in Reston last week.

## Google Searches for Ways to Help

**Having moved into Reston, company announces local philanthropic efforts.**

**A**t a community open house in its new office in Reston Town Center last Tuesday, Dec. 9, Google's federal enterprise sales team took the opportunity to announce its upcoming philanthropic partnerships with Reston Interfaith and Fairfax County Public Schools.

The group plans to help Reston Interfaith use Google technologies to empower its clients, beginning with a local homeless shelter. Mike Bradshaw, director of Google Federal, said even “something as simple as placing a couple of PCs in the shelter” would help its clients look for jobs and have e-mail addresses. And Google will work with the schools to incorporate the Google Earth and SketchUp programs into classroom curriculum.

**THE TEAM** looked all over Fairfax County before deciding to move into about 15,000 square feet of office space on Library Street,

Bradshaw said. What sold them on the location, he said, was its proximity to amenities like recreation and bike paths, as well as its accessibility.

Google spokesman Galen Panger said the company had a location in Washington, D.C., for its government affairs and public policy employees, but wanted another office where the enterprise team's business partners worked and its employees, referred to as “Googlers,” lived.

The team moved in last August and about 30 employees occupy the space.

“Any community they move into, it’s instant recognition and instant credibility to other companies of the same stripe and color,” Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, said of the Google company. “Google is synonymous with creativity. And everybody knows that what drives Google is its employees,” he said, noting that other computer technology companies would now

realize that those employees could be found in Reston and Fairfax County.

**THE FEDERAL** enterprise sales team focuses on repackaging existing Google products to make them useful to the government or commercial businesses, Bradshaw said. For example, he said, the group creates search engine software that lets companies search for internal documents as easily as they can find online items by using Google on the Internet.

As for the company's local philanthropic outreach, Bradshaw said, “We were very welcomed by Fairfax County,” adding that the team wanted to return the good will. “It’s sort of part of the [Google] culture,” he added.

Panger agreed, saying the company offered its assistance to any community where it worked.

— MIKE DICICCO

## Navigating Budget Challenge

**Make your voices heard on hard choices ahead.**

BY CATHERINE M. HUDGINS (D)  
SUPERVISOR, HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

**J**ust as many of you are facing tough decisions with your household budgets, the county is facing difficult decisions with its current FY 2009 budget. You may be cutting back on dining out or travel, or you may be struggling to pay your mortgage or your prescriptions.



COMMENTARY

Fairfax County faces similar challenges and consequently, has instituted measures to reduce expenses, including limiting overtime and travel and furloughing all nonessential county employees for one day in January. We are all trying to figure out how to pay for the things we deem are essential.

With each passing budget presentation, I am made more aware of what an arduous task balancing the next budget will be for me and my fellow board colleagues. We know that we will not be able to provide the same level of services that residents are used to. From my perspective, how we make our decisions depends largely on the answer to this question — when all is said and done, what kind of county do we want to be?

The core purpose of Fairfax County government is to protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County. As a resident and public servant, I take that seriously. I take pride in how the county government conducts itself and that we repeatedly earn recognition as one of the best managed counties in the nation and as one of the best places to live. Despite our successes, we cannot ignore the reality of the current economic situation: less revenue for the county means less available funding for the services we value. The challenge is that citizens of Fairfax County are diverse and place different values on these services. The board has a responsibility to consider those opinions and weigh them against its legal obligations and the best interests of everyone in order to reach a balanced and equitable budget.

So, where do we go from here? We know today that we face a \$500 million shortfall for the budget year that begins July 1, 2009. That number may very well grow. The good

SEE HARD CHOICES, PAGE 7

## Nation Children Holds Successful Distribution

**N**ation Children, a nonprofit dedicated to helping low-income families make a transition to self-dependency, held a charity distribution, Wednesday, Nov. 26, at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne. Nation Children distributed free clothing, shoes and accessories for children, as well as fresh food and vegetables for Thanksgiving dinner.

Afia Armah, executive programs director at Nation Children, said the event was successful even though it closed three hours earlier because there were no donations left to give out. She said it was sad to see many people

who came late be turned away as there were no more goods to provide them.

For more information on the event or Nation Children visit [www.nationchildren.org](http://www.nationchildren.org).

— MIRZA KURSPAHC

**A girl receives a toy at the Nation Children event, Wednesday, Nov. 26, at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

# Bank Robbery in the Herndon Area

**A** 23-year-old woman, employed as a teller at the BB&T Bank located at 13360 Franklin Farm Road was robbed at gunpoint, according to police. On Wednesday, Dec. 10, at around 5 p.m., a man vaulted the counter displaying a handgun. He confronted the teller and announced a robbery. An undisclosed amount of money was handed over and the suspect fled. There were no injuries.

The suspect was described as having light skin, possibly black or Hispanic. He was about 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a stocky build. He was wearing a blue, hooded sweatshirt, khaki pants, white shoes and a black mask.

Detectives have linked this suspect with the bank robbery that occurred at the BB&T Bank located at 2513 Fox Mill Road in Reston on Dec. 1.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



Detectives have linked this suspect with the bank robbery that occurred at the BB&T Bank located at 2513 Fox Mill Road in Reston on Dec. 1.

## Problem Solving

The BLT, the Brilliant LEGO Team, comprising eight Reston, Herndon and Great Falls area seventh-graders, won first place overall (Champion's Award) at the Virginia FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Competition, recently held in Sterling. They also participated in the Virginia State FLL Championship at James Madison University (JMU) in Harrisonburg, Va.

FLL is a global program created to get children excited and inspired about science, technology and engineering. FLL has an annual challenge that is divided into four parts: research project, robot performance, robot design and teamwork. Along with designing, building and programming a robot to perform specified missions, teams must conduct a research project.

This year's research project required teams to find and solve a climate-related problem, as well as present their solutions to a panel of judges. The BLT, after meeting Zack Fields, an aide to county Supervisor Gerry Connolly, discovered that geese droppings are a substantial problem in the Fairfax County area, since geese are staying longer and longer into the fall and winter seasons in the southern areas, and in some areas, not even migrating north because of the conducive climate in Fairfax County. The geese droppings penetrate water systems and can potentially poison humans with E. coli or destroy ecosystems. To solve this predicament, the team came up with various solutions, all of which are explained in their YouTube video, The Canada Geese Problem.

Team members are Greg Blanpied, Priya Seetharaman, Kumar Singaram, Matt Skowronski, Nita Takanti, Alex Terrafranca, Ian Terrafranca and Justin Weeks.

Coaches are Michael Blanpied, Barbara Skowronsk and Robert Terrafranca. Climate



Pictured, from left, are the team members, Ian Terrafranca, Kumar Singaram, Matt Skowronski, Greg Blanpied, Alex Terrafranca, Nita Takanti, Priya Seetharaman, Justin Weeks.

tology mentor is Wayne Weeks, National Weather Service meteorologist.

For more information on geese solutions, visit the team's YouTube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tcxjV2bo4o>.

For more information on FLL in the United States, visit <http://firstlegoleague.org/community/HomePage.aspx>.

### WEEK IN RESTON

## Lake Anne Wins Lego Championship

The Lake Anne Elementary First Lego League team won first place in robot performance at the state championship tournament held recently at James Madison University. The Sea Monsters team has

now placed first in robot performance for two consecutive years. Team members are Steven Anderson, Andrew Barrett, Ryan Barrett, Patrick Keefer, Joshua Kobayashi, Julia Morgan, Mia Rickenbach, Natalie Schauer, Amaani Sirajuddin, and Brentan Walter. The team is coached by Wally Walter, John Barrett, Kim Schauer, and Siraj Sirajuddin.



Joe Ritchey, president of the Initiative for Public Art-Reston, unveils Reston's public art master plan, rendering Reston the first unincorporated community in the United States to have such a plan.

## Public Arts Plan Unveiled

Reston becomes country's first unincorporated community with public art master plan.

BY MIRZA KURSPAHC  
THE CONNECTION

**T**o some they are abstract and to others they are concrete, but Reston's founder Robert E. Simon Jr., refers to sculptures at Lake Anne Village Center as "pieces of fantasy." While sculptures and other artworks are exhibited in parts of Reston, a plan has been created to encourage purposeful installation of public artworks throughout the community.

"Reston is the first unincorporated community in the United States to have a public art master plan," Joe Ritchey, president of Initiative for Public Art-Reston (IPAR), said. He said the creation of the plan fulfills a vision Simon put in place 45 years ago, incorporating public art in Lake Anne, Reston's first village center. "We've inherited a tremendous planning template," Ritchey said. "Public art was always incorporated in that."

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for the community of Reston," Ann Rodriguez, Reston resident and president of the Arts Council of Fairfax County, said. "It is a na

SEE ART, PAGE 7

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# New Partner for Indoor Facility?

RCA discusses Fairfax County's role in bringing indoor recreation to Reston.



**Brown's Chapel continues to be a site under consideration for the indoor recreation facility.**

By MIRZA KURSPAHIC  
THE CONNECTION

Restonians are still waiting on the indoor tennis court to be constructed in their community. While it is no secret that the tennis-crazed community wishes to have indoor tennis in addition to 48 outdoor courts, the question of how to pay for it all is on some resident's minds.

"Let the county build it for us," said Dan McGuire, a Reston Citizens Association (RCA) director for South Lakes. He said he would do everything he could to stop the project if it was financed through Reston residents. "I think it's unfair to the public, or Reston, because we have been short-shafted in almost every aspect of county resources," McGuire said. He cited the financing of Reston Community Center through a special tax district as an example of how the county got out of investing money into Reston.

and Recreation director, spoke to the RCA board Monday night, Nov. 24, about the indoor facility. He said that there had been discussions with the Fairfax County Park Authority regarding a partnership for the indoor facility because it owns 60 acres of land adjacent to Brown's Chapel, an area RA is exploring as a possible site for the future facility. "We've had some discussions with the Park Authority, but there's been no commitment," Butler said. He added that the task force of RA and Reston Community Center directors had mentioned in its discussions that if the county builds the facility then it has to be open to all county residents. "It makes it less of a 'Reston' facility," Butler said.

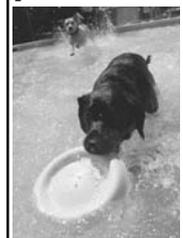
McGuire said county-built facilities in other areas require user fees, and are open to everyone, but at

LARRY BUTLER, the Reston Association (RA) Parks

SEE INDOOR FACILITY, PAGE 15

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## NEWS

# Reston Promotes Art

FROM PAGE 4

tionwide first and it's to be celebrated." She added that the Reston plan will be a perfect model for other communities, in Fairfax County or elsewhere, to emulate.

**"THIS IS NOT** just about art being brought into Reston, but also about art being created in Reston," Leila Gordon, executive director of the Reston Community Center, said. Gordon said the artwork that would be commissioned from the plan is meant to come from a wide array of artists, from professionals to local students. "Every piece of this plan is meant to incorporate community education and involvement," she said.

Gordon added that the plan provides an opportunity for Reston artists and other residents to be involved in art projects throughout the community. "We enjoy doing things all over Reston they [the residents] can enjoy," she said, including creating contemplative and playful spaces through art-work.

In addition to aesthetic benefits, Gordon said public art stimulates the community's activities on every level and has economic benefits also. She said studies show that works of public art increase worker productivity and community engagement. "If art is present, the community is likelier to become involved," Gordon said.

Ritchey, addressing about 40 people at the unveiling of the plan at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) Tuesday night, Dec. 2, explained the plan's history. Upon



PHOTO BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC/THE CONNECTION

**Public arts supporters joined the Initiative for Public Art-Reston board members to unveil the community's public art master plan at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) Tuesday night, Dec. 2.**

## Principles for Public Art

- ❖ Public artworks should be considered in any new development in Reston — from new community facilities to major private projects to public-private endeavors.
- ❖ Public artworks should be commissioned as part of the overall design of a site, to the fullest extent possible, not as adjuncts or afterthoughts.
- ❖ The location of public artworks should respond to Reston's established community planning and urban design strategies.
- ❖ Public artworks should be commissioned in all areas of Reston and should be accessible to everybody — residents, employees and visitors.
- ❖ Reston's collection of artworks should be diverse. The collection should include sculpture, art that is integrated in building design, part of landscapes and featured in public spaces. Reston's public art projects will be led by artists and engaged with the community.

attending a symposium on public art in Charlottesville in April 2007, he and a couple of other art enthusiasts, including Rodriguez, decided to gauge the interest in public art in the community. Seven community organizations — GRACE, League of Reston Artists, Arts Council of Fairfax County, Reston Community Center, Reston Association, Reston Town Center Association and Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce — came together with Reston residents representing artists and planners to form IPAR. A public forum and mailed surveys were included in the public outreach for the effort and a consultant was retained to organize the public and professional input into a plan. IPAR board members toured existing public artworks in Reston and also visited Arlington, a jurisdiction that has enacted a master plan.

The boards of all seven organizations comprising IPAR endorsed the plan unveiled Monday unanimously. "It truly is a gift from the community to the community," Ritchey said.

"It's really great living in Reston," Fairfax County Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said. She said the plan's creation is another example of Reston's values and its residents' ingenuity. "We create out of our own initiative," Hudgins said. "It comes from the ground up."

Ritchey said IPAR's work was conducted with three goals in mind — creating a world-class public arts master plan for Reston, creating a template for other unincorporated communities to follow and growing a new leadership in Reston. For more information on IPAR or to view the plan visit <http://www.publicartreston.org>.

# Hard Choices

FROM PAGE 3

news is we have already instituted measures to mitigate the projected shortfalls, including adjustments to the current budget. Unlike many other jurisdictions, we began this discussion months, if not years, ago and have already implemented measures to address it. So, while there are hard decisions being made and even more to make in the weeks and months ahead, we are in a better position than many other jurisdictions. I would caution that panic will not get us through the challenges we face. What is needed is thoughtful consideration of the services and programs we value and an honest discussion about the things we will have to live without.

I have learned that in times of difficulty, communities respond and people and organizations find

ways to help each other. There will be reductions and no matter how they are achieved, programs and people across the county will feel the effects. I encourage you to be actively engaged in this process by ensuring your voice is heard, either by visiting the county's Web site and submitting your budget ideas online or contacting my office. Ask yourself, what kind of county do I want to live in? Your answer to that question is vital if we are to maintain the quality of life we all value

To stay informed on the latest Hunter Mill District and Board of Supervisors news, subscribe to the Hunter Mill District e-blast, visit my Web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/> and select the appropriate link. As always, call or e-mail my office at 703-478-0283 with any thoughts, concerns or questions.

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# OPINION

## When To Chase? How to judge when benefits outweigh risks to police, public?

In the past week, there were two instances of police chasing perpetrators through multiple jurisdictions that raise some questions.

In one case, a tractor trailer driven by a man fleeing police in Montgomery County crossed the American Legion Bridge on the Capital Beltway into Fairfax County and then exited in Tysons Corner before crashing down the block from this newspaper's offices on Westpark Drive. Dozens of police cars from Maryland and Virginia participated in the chase, broadcast live on some channels via helicopter.

The chase ended with a few fender benders and the suspect being tasered. No one else was hurt.

But we wonder what kind of damage could have occurred.

When does it make sense to chase a suspect driving a vehicle with contents unknown into the center of one of the largest shopping districts in the United States during the holiday shopping season? With helicopters in pursuit perhaps this is a case where tracking the truck until it ran out of gas was a possibility.

Last week, a 19-year-old bank robbery suspect from McLean was shot dead by police within sight of a middle school after a foot chase led them to an Arlington neighborhood.

Last February, a Fairfax County Police Officer drove her police cruiser through a red traffic signal on Richmond Highway on the way to answer a call, striking the car of 33 year-old Ashley McIntosh and killing her. The officer was cleared of charges of reckless driving.

EDITORIALS

We don't pretend to understand all of the factors that come into play in making such decisions in general or these decisions in particular. We do know that we would like police to be open with the public about their policies.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## More on Poor Students

Several thoughtful emails were sent responding to our editorial, "Don't Lump Poor Students Together." (Dec. 3, 2008, [www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=322904&paper=65&cat=110](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=322904&paper=65&cat=110))

Some writers pointed to many factors besides concentration of student poverty that affect the quality of a school.

For example, Graham Road Elementary, with a high percent poverty rate, performs comparably to many schools with wealthy student populations. Graham Road, at least one writer said, is a good school because of great principal, great resources and parents who care.

The way the editorial was written does present too simplistic a picture.

While concentration of poverty in schools creates significant and often unnecessary chal-

lenges, and decreasing the concentration has benefits, this is far from the only factor involved in creating a successful school and student achievement.

Absolutely a great principal can inspire staff and parents; teachers and parents who care can make an incredible difference. And it is also quite possible for a school populated by affluent families to be mediocre.

Any yet, as the school system draws new boundaries, it is a mistake to create this additional challenge of concentrating poor students in one school.

But there is much more work than that involved in creating great schools.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Blagojevich Got Caught

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
CIVIC LEADER AND RESTON  
IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



Perhaps most surprising about the case of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is not that he was nailed, but that more politicians at all levels are not. Our campaign finance rules are so lax and their enforcement even more so that there is just too much temptation for public officeholders. Many are no doubt more honest while others are not caught because they are smarter and less aggressively greedy than Blagojevich.

The opportunities for corrupt behavior are everywhere. In the nation's capital, an army of 35,000-plus lobbyists disburse millions in the service of big oil, pharma, insurance and more economic powerhouses. Congressmen and women think nothing of inserting earmarks worth millions for noncompetitive contracts or grants directed to

### INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

campaign contributors — and it is perfectly legal. State legislators recently took money en masse from Dominion Power in return for the fastest reregulation of an entire industry in history. And, don't even get me started on some Fairfax County Supervisors whose campaign machinery is lubricated by developer cash resulting in dysfunctional land use and transportation gridlock for lowly constituents.

How do we drain the fetid swamp that U.S. governance has become? In an ideal world, campaigns would rely on public airwaves rather than pricey

commercial TV and public not private financing. Short of these serious overhauls to restore public confidence, let's do some obvious remedying:

- ❖ bar contributions from those having or seeking contracts from the county or state;

- ❖ bar contributions from those seeking regulatory rulings or legislation — e.g., developers;

- ❖ sharply limit contribution size and tighten disclosure rules so that limits stick; and,
- ❖ strengthen monitoring, enforcement and penalties for violations.

On Feb. 3 we will elect a new chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. My vote goes to the candidate who commits to essential reform of the Fairfax campaign finance swamp. To follow the pay-to-play money trails at the county and state levels, go to [www.vpap.org](http://www.vpap.org); to follow the bucks in the US House and Senate, go to [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)

### LETTERS

## Restoration Sugarcoated

To the Editor:

My husband Rick and I live near the Snakeden stream restoration. I am sick at my stomach every time I walk down by Lake Audubon and see what they have done to my "backyard." I feel like I am in mourning. Though RA would not consider us to be an "affected party" we purchased a home in south Reston, because of the proximity to the wild ambience of the dense, natural woods. We looked at similar, less expensive homes in other, open meadow, areas of Fairfax County including north Reston. South Reston was unique in offering this leafy solace. We feel that we paid a premium to live here.

We walk daily in the Glade Valley and wish to see the woods preserved even if the stream needs repairs. We do not want to see the Glade Valley clear-cut as has happened to the Snakeden. We both believe the continued restoration can and should be accomplished with a much smaller footprint than we have seen in the Snakeden restoration. We don't feel that any real effort is being made to pre-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

## THE CONNECTION

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# OPINION

## Virginia, Is There a Santa Claus?

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

**M**y column next week will be a reprint of the famous 1897 New York Sun editorial, "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus." In it editor Francis P. Church responds to young reader Virginia O'Hanlon's question about the existence of Santa Claus. More recently a question is being asked throughout Virginia as to whether the state can meet its obligations in a compassionate way. Is there a Santa Claus for state government, and if so, will he come this year?

The economic crisis being felt by most households and certainly by the business community as a whole is wreaking havoc on the state budget as well. What appeared initially to be a couple of

billion dollars shortfall will certainly exceed 3 billion dollars and the only remaining question is by how much. No areas of the state budget will escape reductions. The challenge will be to keep minimally funded programs alive when they provide vital services.

Your assistance is needed in establishing priorities for our funding. All voters should receive a newsletter from me in the next week that includes a Voter Survey. If you have not received a copy by next week, call my office at 703-758-9733 in the mornings to request a copy be sent to you. Complete the written survey and return it to me or complete the survey online at [www.kenplum.com](http://www.kenplum.com).

Please plan also to participate in



COMMENTARY

public hearings I will be holding on Monday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m., at Fox Mill Elementary School with Sen. Mark Herring or on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m., at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne with Sen. Janet Howell. This is an opportunity to meet with your elected representatives

to state government before we leave for Richmond for the annual legislative session. Preregistration is not required. Written testimony is appreciated but not required.

Wishful thinking or fantasies will not solve the commonwealth's challenges. Nor will Santa Claus provide a solution. Tough decisions will need to be made. I would really appreciate hearing from you on your priorities.

### LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

serve trees. Lip service is paid to the effort, but is not demonstrated in the results. A scalpel

should have been used rather than a bulldozer.

I have walked all the way up the Snakeden several times and seen the full restoration. It is pretty in

the upper reaches where WSSI has completed their work, but it is not what we wanted when we moved

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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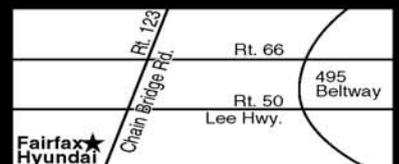
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NEWS

# Christmas Party Celebrated

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



Lauren Ainslie of Reston serves punch to residents and family members of the Hunters Woods Fellowship House Saturday during its annual Christmas Party. Ainslie's grandmother is a volunteer at the house and she wanted to come along to help.



Robert E. Simon, founder of Reston, visits with residents of the Hunters Woods Fellowship House Saturday.

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**PassionFish restaurant in Reston Town Center opened in October.**



**Customers enjoy Mon Ami Gabi's outdoor patio in early October.**



**Jackson's Mighty Fine Foods & Lucky Lounge opened in Reston Town Center in late September.**

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**"We just love the whole idea of live, work, play and serve in Reston"**

**-Nicole Gebhart, director of public relations for the Mon Ami Gabi**

# Town Center Attracts New Restaurants

**New dining establishments adorn Reston Town Center despite economic downturn.**

By MIRZA KURSPAHIC  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hile the nation is gripped by news reports about levels of points and percentages of New York-based stock markets, people in Reston Town Center continue to spend money in the area's restaurants. Since the completion of the South of Market development in the summer, new dining establishments have come online with more slated to open soon.

"Success breeds success," Penny Pompei, most recent president of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, said. "Reston Town Center is an extremely vibrant downtown urban area," she said of the reason why companies continue to open new locations in Reston Town Center in spite of an economic downturn. Besides, she said, historically more businesses are started at a time of prosperity.

Businesses are getting good deals on space and suffer through the

pains of starting up together with the economy. "So when the economy picks up, you are ready to roll," Pompei said. As for the first impressions from the new restaurants she has visited at Reston Town Center, Pompei said, "I'm so impressed."

**MORE THAN** providing dining options to consumers in Reston Town Center, Pompei said the new restaurants are helping create the feel for a true mixed-use area. "Bob Simon's vision of a live, work, play environment has finally come to fruition in Reston Town Center," Pompei said.

"We just love the whole idea of live, work, play and serve in Reston," Nicole Gebhart, the director of public relations for the Mon Ami Gabi division of the Chicago-based Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises (LEYE) Inc., the same company that owns the Big Bowl brand, said. Two restaurants under LEYE's purview have opened in Reston Town Center late this summer and early this fall, Mon Ami Gabi, a French steakhouse, and the Community

Canteen, a breakfast, lunch and brunch specialty establishment. While Mon Ami Gabi's location is the store's fifth in the nation, the Community Canteen is a brand new concept for LEYE, according to Gebhart. "It's kind of like a little market," she said of the new concept.

Gebhart said LEYE was attracted to Reston Town Center, not only because of the success Big Bowl enjoys in the area, but also because Mon Ami Gabi and the Community Canteen present new concepts to the area. She said Reston Town Center is an affluent area that did not have a classic French bistro or a catering service that includes wine and beer, which the Community Canteen provides. Being in Town Center, said Gebhart, is "a win-win for the community and for us. They definitely were craving something like Mon Ami Gabi and especially the Community Canteen."

A restaurant slated for opening across a pedestrian plaza from LEYE's two locations is The Counter, which will offer custom-made hamburgers to its customers. Brian Berman, the director of marketing for the California-based The Counter, said the demographics of Reston Town Center fit perfect with the customer base the restaurant serves. "We looked at the demographics and we knew this is the place for us," Berman said. He said

the Reston Town Center customers would appreciate The Counter's burgers made in-house and from fresh ingredients.

The Counter was initially slated to open in November, but the company's Web site states the opening for the Reston Town Center location to be in January 2009. Berman said the current state of the economy did not dissuade executives from opening new locations for the franchise. "People may cut down on vacation or white tablecloth dining, but they are still going to reward themselves with that burger," Berman said.

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

here in 2005. I keep trying, but I simply cannot reconcile myself to the loss of all those trees.

I was one who did try to be informed prior to the work commencing. I was participating in a 5K walk sponsored by the Nature Center in the spring of 2007. I walked much of the route through the Glade Valley with a man and his two dogs. I discovered later that man was Mike Roland, president of WSSI. He told me he was part of the stream restoration group and suggested I look at the Web site. I did and was not alarmed by what I saw. It looked more Disney than the Texas Chainsaw Massacre it has become. Had the full import of the project

been evident you can bet both Rick and I would have been protesting long before this.

I do wonder if RA is at all surprised at the number of trees removed. No matter, they are so busy defending the decision making process that they are not stepping back and looking at the devastation. Their CYA attitude, and insistence that they have been transparent, is getting in the way of an honest appraisal of the results. Someone up there should have been an advocate for a different viewpoint, even if they agreed with the proposal. Shame on them if they knew and did not disclose that information adequately to residents.

Recent articles and editorials in The Reston Connection still sug-

arcoat the impact of the stream restoration. I do not like the way they have characterized those of us who are sincerely unhappy with the project, though, frankly, I am comfortable with the NIMBY label. Remember, only about a mile and a half of the 14-mile project has been completed.

I have been talking to people on my daily walks and trying to inform them of what is about to happen. Most are unaware of the impact the project is going to have on their lives. Many have expressed an interest in becoming more involved. Let's hope they do so before it is too late. It is their "backyard" next.

**Cynthia Smethers**  
Reston

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**Adult Sunday school** will be held **every Sunday**, at 9:30 a.m., at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow every Sunday at 11 a.m.

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Israel

**June 16:** Year-end Luncheon

**Every Wednesday**, at 12:15 p.m., **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon, offers a lunch-time Healing and Holy Communion service. This half-hour service is offered to all and allows people an opportunity to worship during the work week when they may be away from their regular church. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament and all who have not been baptized may receive a blessing at the Altar rail. Call the church Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at 703-437-3790 or visit [www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org).

Knitters needed the **first and third Wednesdays** of the month, at 7 p.m., at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail [shawl@saint-timothys.org](mailto:shawl@saint-timothys.org) or visit the Pastoral Care page at [www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org).

Nondenominational **Christian businessmen** meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship **every Friday**, at 7 a.m., at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and **every Thursday** at noon at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

**The Dranesville Church of the Brethren**, 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon, is **gathering to remember the Battle of Dranesville** and to pray for peace Sunday, **Dec. 21**, at 7 p.m. The service begins with a candle lit for each man killed in the battle. As each name is read, one candle is extinguished to symbolize the terrible human cost of war. Contact John Waggoner at [jwaggoner@usatoday.com](mailto:jwaggoner@usatoday.com) or 703-854-3490 (W) or 703-216-7036 (cell).

**Cedar Run Community Church**, 13560 McLearn Road, Oak Hill, will hold their Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service Wednesday, **Dec. 24** at 5:30 p.m.

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, 1133 Reston Ave., Herndon, will hold a Devotional Service for families with young children at 5 p.m., Service of Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m. and a Candlelight Service with Holy Communion at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, **Dec. 24**. Call 703-437-5020.



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BRIDGET O'BOYLE

## Piebald Deer Spotted

What appears to be a white-tailed deer with an unusual piebald pattern has been frequenting a neighborhood off Glade Drive in Reston. A neighbor sent in this picture.

## Indoor Facility Discussed

FROM PAGE 5

least Fairfax County invests money into it. "It's a good idea," he said about the indoor facility, "but let them pay for it."

Marie Huhtala, another RCA director, discouraged the possibility to look at a user-fee system to pay for the construction of the facility. "Let's not explore further fees to people in Reston," said Huhtala, adding that they already pay RA dues, RCC fees and property taxes.

Butler's presentation to the RCA board included information from a

market and feasibility study for the construction of the facility. The consultants, Brailsford and Dunlavey, examined what uses, other than indoor tennis courts, could also be included in the facility. Possibilities include weight lifting and indoor track. Butler said he has not seen any recommendations from the consultants regarding the indoor facility, but he expects to see them in two to three weeks. He said the consultants' work is slated to be over by the end of the year or early in January.

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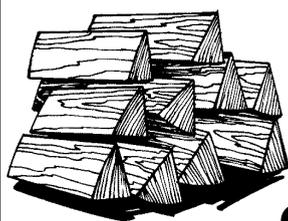
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## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

### THURSDAY/DEC. 18

**Community Performances.** The Fox Mill Elementary Treble Choir will perform, at 7 p.m., in the Reston Town Center.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 23

**Blood Drive.** Inova Blood Drive, from 12-7:30 p.m., beside the Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St. Schedule appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or [inova.org/donateblood](http://inova.org/donateblood).



**JunkFood will celebrate the release of their third full-length album "Mighty" with a concert at Ned Devine's, 2465 Centreville Road, Herndon, Saturday, Dec. 20, 10 p.m.**

### FRIDAY/DEC. 26

**Day After Sale.** Save 26 percent on all in-store items and 50 percent off all holiday items at the Dandelion Patch in Reston Town Center. Call 703-689-2240 or visit [thedandelionpatch.com](http://thedandelionpatch.com).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 27

**Jazz.** The Potomac Jazz Project plays 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the Ice House Café, 760 Elden St., Herndon. Visit [www.potomacjazz.com](http://www.potomacjazz.com).

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Holiday Book Drive.** Barnes & Noble, Spectrum Center, 1851 Fountain Drive, Reston, is supporting The Embury Rucker Community Shelter with a display and suggestions for those wanting to make a purchase and add to the boxes of gifts. The shelter asks that all gifts be new and unwrapped to make it easier for them to match the gift and recipient.

**Holiday Performances.** Community groups will present music and dance performances at Fountain Square, Reston Town Center. Schedule on [www.restontowncenter.com](http://www.restontowncenter.com).

The **Bargain Loft Holiday Shop**, 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, is open for business **through Dec. 24**. Store open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All proceeds go to Herndon-Reston FISH Inc. to help people with emergency needs. Visit [www.herndonrestonfish.org](http://www.herndonrestonfish.org).

**Visit Santa.** Visit Santa and take photos with him next to M&S Grill on Democracy Street at the Reston Town Center, **through 24**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

### HOLIDAY EVENTS

**Horse-drawn carriage rides,** Saturday, **Dec. 20**, at Reston Town Center, from 12-4 p.m., to benefit local charities.

**Caroling Dinner.** The annual VOCE Caroling Dinner will be held at Jasmine Café in Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston, **Dec. 17**, 7 p.m. Call 703-471-9114.

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 17

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# SCHOOLS

The **Lake Anne Elementary First Lego League team**, The Sea Monsters, won first place in robot performance at the state championship tournament held at James Madison University. Team members: Steven Anderson, Andrew Barrett, Ryan Barrett, Patrick Keefer, Joshua Kobayashi, Julia Morgan, Mia Rickenbach, Natalie Schauer, Amaani Sirajuddin, and Brentan Walter. The team is coached by Wally Walter, John Barrett, Kim Schauer, and Siraj Sirajuddin.

The **League of Reston Artists (LRA)** announced the opening of their 2009 scholarship program. The scholarships are open to aspiring artists who are seniors at any Fairfax County high school. Applicants must be an art/photography student at his/her high school and must have applied to, or been accepted at, an art school or program at a college or university, for the summer or fall 2009 term. Completed applications must be received by the LRA at P.O. Box 2513, Reston, VA 20195-2513 **by Feb. 28**. Visit [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org) for details.



**Students at Reston Day School baked 100 pies to raise money to help the planet at their "Pies for the Planet" event.**

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

FROM PAGE 16

A **Holiday Mixer** presented by the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce will be held Thursday, **Dec. 18**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon. \$15/members; \$20/non-members; \$10/person for member parties of five or more. Reservations can be made at [www.dullesregionalchamber.org/events](http://www.dullesregionalchamber.org/events).

**Breakfast with Santa.** Have break-

fast with Santa at McCormick and Schmick's in Reston Town Center, **Dec. 20-21**, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Tickets: \$22/adults, \$6.95 children, includes breakfast buffet and photo with Santa. Call 703-481-6600 for reservations.

**Christmas Eve Supper.** Enjoy a Christmas Eve supper, **Dec. 24**, with live guitar music at Jasmine Café in Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Call 703-471-9114.

**New Year's Evening Celebration.** Enjoy festive French fare, party favors and a champagne toast at Mon Ami Gabi in Reston Town Center, **Dec. 31**, from 5-10 p.m. Call 703-707-0233 or visit [www.monamigabi.com/reston](http://www.monamigabi.com/reston) for reservations.

**New Year's Eve Special.** Enjoy a New Year's celebration, **Dec. 31**, with live music at Jasmine Café at Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Call 703-471-9114.

## FOOD & DRINK

**Jasmine Café**, 1633A Washington Plaza, Reston, is celebrating its 20th anniversary by giving customers gift certificates for prizes including appetizers and complimentary dinners through the end of the year. The café is open daily for lunch, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and dinner, 5-10 p.m. Call 703-471-9114 or visit [www.jasminecafe.com](http://www.jasminecafe.com) for reservations.

Special events at the café include: Wednesday, **Dec. 17**, annual VOCE Caroling dinner, 7 p.m.; Wednesday, **Dec. 24**, Christmas supper, 7 p.m., and Wednesday, **Dec. 31**, New Year's Eve Special, 7 p.m.

**Jimmy's Old Town Tavern**, 697 Spring St., Herndon, is hosting a **Holiday Party Thursday, Dec. 18**, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. There will be Craps, Poker and Blackjack for charity, photos with Santa, a DJ and dancing. Casino winnings on a variety of prizes or buy or bid on "Big Ticker" items, including Wizards and Caps tickets and a signed copy of Bobby Orr's "The Dive" photo. Casino proceeds will benefit Operation Homefront.

**Jimmy's Old Town Tavern**, 697 Spring St., Herndon, is hosting their 12th annual "**Christmas Party for Kids**" Saturday, **Dec. 20**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. There will be souvenir photos, coloring, crafts, dance party, Christ-

mas carol singing and choice of Kids' Meals and beverages. \$11.95/child; reservations encouraged. Call 703-435-JIMS.

**Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro**, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, hosts the upscale "Unwind Hour" every weekday evening from 5-7 p.m. Guests can enjoy a glass or bottle from the restaurant's extensive wine selection and a sampling of Executive Chef Seth Eldridge's complimentary tapas. Each week, Vinifera will feature three highly rated wines for special "tasting" at bargain prices. Visit [www.viniferabistro.com](http://www.viniferabistro.com) or call 703-234-3550.

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# White Out

While nearly one-third of the county is not white, 95 percent of its elected officials are.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen he is sworn in on Jan. 20, President-elect Barack Obama will be the first African American to hold that office. He will also boost the number of people of color who represent Fairfax County by 25 percent.

Only four of Fairfax County's 80 current elected representatives, from United States President to Northern Virginia Soil and Water board members, are not white. None are Hispanic or Latino.

According to the 2006 U.S. Census, about 40 percent of Fairfax County defines itself as members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

Fairfax County Public Schools is a "majority minority" system, with white students making up just 48 percent of the total student population in 2008.

**YET FAIRFAX COUNTY'S** representatives hardly reflect the county's multi-ethnic and multi-racial make up. While nearly one-third of the county is not white, 95 percent of its elected officials are.

Until Obama takes office, none of Fairfax County's elected official at the federal level is a member of a minority group. Every person that represents Fairfax County in the state government, including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, six state Senators and 16 members House of Delegates members, is white.

At the local government level, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who is African American, is the only person of 10 sitting on the county board that is not white. Elected in 2003, Hudgins is the first African American and non-white person elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Ilryong Moon, Korean American, and Tina Hone, who is biracial, are both at-large members on the 12-member Fairfax County School Board.

George Lovelace, who is African American, sits on the Vienna's town council. He is the only non-white elected representative out of 20 in the county's three town governments of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

"The richness of Fairfax County is its diversity and, when you look across the room, you don't see that diversity across the leadership," said Hudgins.

From 2004 to 2007, just three of the 80 people holding public office in Fairfax County – 3.75 percent overall – were not white.

"It is one of the reasons I ran," said Hone about the lack of racial and ethnic diversity among Fairfax County's political leadership.



When Barack Obama, shown here at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax in July, takes office as President, he will increase the current minority representation of Fairfax County by 25 percent.



Tina Hone



Ilryong Moon



Cathy Hudgins



George Lovelace

**"The richness of Fairfax County is its diversity and, when you look across the room, you don't see that diversity across the leadership."**

— Cathy Hudgins,  
Board of Supervisors

"I know fully that one does not have to be a minority to understand and be passionate about issues that affect minorities. ... [But] I am someone who actually believes a government should reflect the diversity of the electorate."

"Especially for something like the school board, it is important to have various points of view represented on the board," said Bob Frye, an African American elected to Fairfax school board in 1995. "Having people from diverse backgrounds and occupations helped."

Elected officials also run the risk of leaving minority communities isolated or disenfranchised when the political leadership fails to reflect the electorate.

"Such imbalance does not help garnering support and buy-in from the under represented communities for policies set by the political leaders," said Moon. "Such imbalances also miss opportunities to tap resources and talents that minority candidates and communities can provide."

**THERE ARE** different theories as to why Fairfax County's political leadership does not reflect the county's population.

Some say Fairfax County's minority com-

munities have grown fairly recently and are still trying to grow roots establish themselves.

According to the U.S. Census, Fairfax was 81.3 percent white in 1990. By 2006, the county population was 67.9 percent white.

"When you compare [Northern] Virginia to the rest of the United States, our communities are still very young," said Isis Castro, a former county school board member.

**MANY OF** the new residents who make up Fairfax's fastest growing minority communities, Asian and Hispanic, are also immigrants. About 27 percent of Fairfax residents are foreign born and 32 percent speak a language other than English in their homes, according to 2006 census data.

The language barrier can make it very difficult for minority communities to get involved in politics and could also explain why certain groups have lagged in representation. "If you come here, you have to learn the language first, become successful and get involved in your community before you can move on to politics. That can take time," said Castro, who was a refugee from Cuba, moving to Florida as a child.

## Fairfax Minority Elected Officials:

- George Lovelace:** Town of Vienna Council (1982-1996, 2003- present); House of Delegates (1997-1999)
- Bob Frye:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (1996-2003)
- Ernestine Heastie:** Fairfax County School Board, Providence District (1996-2003)
- Ilryong Moon:** Fairfax County School Board, Braddock District (1996-1999); Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2004-present)
- Isis Castro:** Fairfax County School Board, Mount Vernon District (2000-2003)
- Rita Thompson:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2000-2003)
- Cathy Hudgins:** Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Hunter Mill (2004-present)
- Tina Hone:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2008-present)
- Barack Obama:** United States President (takes office 2009)

New immigrants may also have a hard time understanding the political process in the United States or have had negative experiences with government officials in their home country.

"Many minority communities have not been in Fairfax long enough to learn and become comfortable with the American political process. Some communities have also traditionally shunned politics due to their own cultural and historical experiences," said Moon, who moved to Northern Virginia from Korea in high school.

"In addition to candidate recruiting, more education on our political process needs to be provided to communities," he said.

**MANY CANDIDATES** don't believe people of color really need "majority minority" districts to get elected in Fairfax County. Every minority elected official in Fairfax County was chosen by a majority white elector-

torate. County voters seem willing to look past race when voting.

When Ernestine Heastie was elected Providence's representative on the school board in 1995, the district had one of the smallest African American populations, just 5.2 percent, of any in the county. According to 2006 census data, the Hunter Mill district, which Hudgins represents, is just 6.2 percent African American and

nearly 70 percent white.

"I think if a person of color runs for office in Northern Virginia, I think they are chosen based on what they bring to the table," said Lovelace, the Vienna Town Councilmember. "I am not naive enough to think that color doesn't matter but a person of color would get a fair look in Northern Virginia."

**FAIRFAX COUNTY** has a deficit of minority elected officials not because people of

SEE LITTLE DIVERSITY. PAGE 19

# Little Diversity in County Leadership

FROM PAGE 18

color can't get elected but because of a deficit of minority candidates.

"There have not been enough minority candidates running for public office," said Moon. "The political parties need to do a much better job of reaching out to minority communities to recruit, encourage, groom and train more minority candidates."

Mexican American and Republican activist Laura Varamirez Drain agreed with Moon. The Reston resident was focused on national politics this past fall as national co-chair of Latinas for McCain and Virginia's only Hispanic delegate to the Republican National Convention in early September. But she says she will direct more of her attention to local politics now. "Fairfax is a very diverse community and we are not well represented. I think we have to do a better job of running for positions," said Drain.

**SCOTT SUROVELL** hopes to increase minority participation in the Fairfax County Democratic Committee as the organization's current president.

"I think candidates will come from that," he said. The local Democrats are trying to have more of a presence at ethnic community events and fairs. Surovell said party officials are also reaching out more to the ethnic media.

The party's information piece for public schools' Back-to-School Night was printed in four different languages this year. Fairfax County Democrats are also working toward offering their "sample ballots" in several languages.

Surovell added that the amount of money and time it takes to run for office is also a barrier. "A lot of people simply can't afford to make the jump [to elected office]," he said.

**MOST** of Fairfax County's minority elected officials have been affiliated with the Democratic Party, though Rita Thompson, a former school board member, was a Republican. The Republican Party also ran Vellie Dietrich Hall, a Filipino American, unsuccessfully for Mason District supervisor in 2007.

"In my opinion, we have a very diverse Republican Party. We have a lot of people participating from very different backgrounds. Our party vice chair is Korean and the head of the Mason District Republican Committee is African American. ... But all that hasn't translated into candidates and candidates getting elected," said Jim Hyland, recent head of the Fairfax County Republican Party.

The local Republicans have a hard time recruiting candidates, whether they are

**"The political parties need to do a much better job of reaching out to minority communities to recruit, encourage, groom and train more minority candidates."**

— **Ilyong Moon, Fairfax school board**

Moon.

Time and money are major reasons that minorities in particular do not run for office, according to several current and former minority representatives.

"Being on the school board pays \$12,000 per year and it is a matter of people who can do it. In my case, I was retired so I knew I would have a pension coming in," said Heastie, former school board member.

The average household income of Asian, African American or Hispanic households in Fairfax significantly lower than it is for their white counterparts, indicating that people from minority communities may

from a minority community or not, he said.

"It is getting harder and harder to get people to run for office. It is has gotten more expensive and time consuming so people are less inclined to do it. You essentially have to be wealthy or in a situation where you don't have to work," said Hyland. "There are lots of good people I would love to run for office and they say they like being active in the party but they are not sure they want to quit their job, raise money and get pummeled by the press," he added.

Several people who currently hold and previously held elected office agreed the running for election is an intimidating task.

"It appears to be an awesome venture to do something like that. The person either has to have the resources or the ability to raise the resources," said Frye.

For minority candidates, role models and mentors are also few and far between.

"That fact that there are not many minority elected officials itself is not encouraging to any minority who may be considering a run," said

have less financial flexibility to run.

"For people who have kids it is just very difficult to give up the time and the money," said Hone, current school board member.

She added that people of color are more likely to have grown up poor or working class and giving up the luxury of free space in their schedule or extra money can be particularly hard because they have never had that flexibility before.

"It was hard to give up time and that extra financial security because I had never had it growing up. If I have extra time and extra money, do I give it to politics or my family?" Hone said.

The local Democratic Party expects its candidates to be active in the community and local politics for years before they attempt to run for office so energy and financial investment can be a long one that some people can't make.

Still, Hudgins, on the Board of Supervisors, said the way to cultivate and encourage minority leaders is to get them involved in community and county leadership.

As a supervisor, Hudgins tries to make sure her appointments to commissions, boards and authorities include people from an array of backgrounds.

"Most people in serving in elected office in Fairfax County today have been involved in some part of county government as citizen activists," said Hudgins.

**HUDGINS** also emphasized the importance of having a diverse county workforce, particularly among the civil servant leadership.

Currently, about 65 percent of county employees, excluding those in the school system, are white. Senior management in county government, however, is 82 percent white, 12 percent African American, two percent Asian and four percent Hispanic.

**"I am someone who actually believes a government should reflect the diversity of the electorate."**

— **Martina Hone, Fairfax school board**

## Fairfax County Government Employees By Race/Ethnicity

The Asian and Hispanic communities – Fairfax County's two largest minority groups -- are underrepresented in the Fairfax County government. The following information is provided by the U.S. Census and Fairfax County government.



## Fairfax County Public Schools Employees by Race/Ethnicity

Fairfax County Public Schools is a majority minority system, where white students make up less than half of the school population. But Fairfax County's teaching core and administrators are still overwhelmingly white.



Though students in Fairfax public schools are only 48 percent white, 84 percent of its teachers are white. About seven percent of teachers are African American, three percent are Hispanic and four percent are Asian.

**IN TERMS OF** elected officials, Obama could prove inspiration for other people from minority communities who might want to run for public office.

"The Obama campaign did a lot to bring people in that we have not seen before. I am hoping that it will have a lasting impact," said Surovell of the local Democrats.

Several of the people of color who have been elected to office said they were inspired by previous campaigns.

"I reflected on the success Doug Wilder had running for Governor. I had been an appointed school board member so I thought I would try to run and I was successful," said Frye of his decision to become a candidate for school board.

Hudgins said she and others were inspired by Jesse Jackson's run for the U.S. presidency in 1984 and 1988. Jackson won the Virginia Democratic primary in 1988.

"There was a ground swell, particularly after '88, of folks who started running for office. When you are not seeing your face in a leadership role, it takes a bit more effort to say 'I can make that move,'" she said.

# Seahawks Sweep Herndon in Basketball

South Lakes girls overcome 22-1 deficit. Williams, meanwhile, leads boys to victory.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

A near-capacity crowd of local high-school basketball fans were on hand at the spacious South Lakes High gymnasium last Friday night to take in a girls-boys doubleheader between local rivals Herndon and host school South Lakes.

It was South Lakes' night as both the Seahawk teams won the early season contests. The South Lakes girls, in the evening's first contest, overcame an early 21-point deficit to defeat Herndon, 47-44. Then, in the nightcap boys game, South Lakes senior point guard Travis Williams kept the Hornets at bay with terrific outside shooting to lead the Seahawks to a 73-68 victory.

Williams, South Lakes' outstanding 5-foot-10-inch point guard, nailed five 3-pointers on way to a game-high 21 points.

South Lakes trailed 39-36 early in the third quarter before Williams scored eight points during a 12-3 South Lakes tear that put the Seahawks ahead to stay at 48-42. Williams scored 11 points, including three 3-pointers during the decisive third quarter. Teammate Brandon Price (15 points), a senior guard, added 10 points in the same quarter.

South Lakes (2-1), which outscored the Hornets 23-11 in the quarter, led 59-48 going into the fourth. Herndon (3-2) did cut the Seahawks' lead to 66-62 on a three-point shot by sophomore guard Austin Hamilton (16 points) from the left corner with two minutes, 35 seconds left in the fourth; but South Lakes' Ramin Shaheedian answered with a pair of free throws moments later and Herndon never got within striking distance again.

"They came out hard and we came out hard," Williams said of the game. "We just kept our intensity high. We've got a lot of team chemistry and the guys trust each other."

Williams, who was red-hot



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**South Lakes senior guard Kelcyn Manurs helped the Seahawk girls storm back to defeat Herndon with some key 3-pointers.**

shooting the ball, loved the electric atmosphere throughout the game.

"It was a rival game with the big crowd and my shots were falling," he said. "We talked about this game all week."

South Lakes coach Darryl Branch was proud of his team's showing in its first home game of the winter.

"It was big to have a strong showing and to win," Branch said. "It was good for the community. It was pretty loud and good to see so many South Lakes students tonight."

He marveled at Williams' play. "He's tough," Branch said. "Last

year, I thought he was the little engine that could. He's going to have a very good senior year. He's a little guy, but he can play. He's one of the better guards in the region. Last year he didn't get as much attention because we had seniors like [since-graduated team leaders] Curtis Keys and Thomas Mayo."

Herndon senior Darian Ison led the Hornets with 18 points, including three treys.

Herndon senior Darian Ison led the Hornets with 18 points, including three treys.

**IN THE GIRLS GAME** earlier in the evening, Herndon jumped out to what appeared to be an insurmountable 22-1 lead less than

10 minutes into the game. Herndon junior guard Phyllis Martin (15 points) scored 11 points during the early game stretch.

South Lakes, which trailed 16-0 after one quarter, did not score its first field goal of the game until senior Olivia Neuman converted a basket off a drive with 5:29 remaining in the second quarter to get the Seahawks within 22-5.

From then on, South Lakes (5-0) seemed to find a comfort level and began playing better. By halftime, the Seahawks still trailed 28-11, but were playing with more confidence.

South Lakes' Kacey Liscomb scored 10 points in the third quarter to help South Lakes get within 37-30 going into the fourth. The Seahawks' charge continued and they finally tied the game, 42-42, on a three-point shot off the left wing from senior guard Kelcyn Manurs (13 points) with 2:08 remaining. Following a timeout, Herndon regained the lead on a layup by Jasmine Johnson (12 points), but Manurs answered with another trey to give South Lakes its first lead of the night at 45-44 with 58 seconds left. The game's only points thereafter came on free throws by Manurs, who scored 10 fourth-quarter points.

"Coach yelled at us at halftime, we were doing so horrible," Manurs said.

Of the excitement of the second half, Manurs said, "I was shaking, I had the chills. It was wonderful."

South Lakes coach Christy Winters Scott expressed surprise that her team, with six seniors, started so poorly.

"I wanted them to work through it and that's what we did," said the coach.

At halftime, Winters Scott told her team they were not playing Seahawks' basketball and expressed disappointment that they were playing so poorly in front of a lot of area youth players who were in attendance.

But Winters Scott was thrilled with her team's second-half play.

"To get this win is sweet for our six seniors," she said.

Herndon coach Reggie Barnes said his team played with patience and defended well in the first half. But the tide turned dramatically thereafter.

"The bottom line is we're young and have got to learn how to close out games," Barnes said. "You can't take anything away from South Lakes. We didn't match their intensity in the second half."

The **Thomas Jefferson High** gymnastics' team, coached by Pete Novgrod, has team members from throughout the local area. The Colonials opened the new season with a first-place finish at their own six-team meet held Dec. 6. Jefferson won the team competition with 136.7 points, finishing ahead of second-place Edison (121.925) and third-place Fairfax (105.7). Rounding out the field were fourth-place Oakton (101.075), fifth-place West Potomac (69.8) and sixth-place T.C. Williams (35.575). Jefferson's Ariel Coronel, an Oakton resident, took part in the competition.

The **Langley High** swim and dive teams defeated Jefferson in a recent season-opening Liberty District competition. The Saxon boys defeated the Colonials, 190-125, and the Langley girls also were victorious, 172-143.

The Jefferson girls winning 200-freestyle relay team included Leah Gonzalez (McLean resident) and Jae Sim (Reston).

McLean resident Kelsey Rainey, a member of the Jefferson team, was a top-three finisher in both the 200- and 500-freestyle events, while Sim was a place finisher in both the 50- and 100-freestyle races. A Northern Region championship qualifying times was achieved by the Jefferson boys medley relay team that included Steven Howard (Oakton).

At the recent **Northern Region Wrestling Classic** event, held at Fairfax High School Dec. 5-6, Jefferson wrestler Matt Becker (Herndon resident) was a third-place finisher in his respective weight class, helping the Colonials to finish eighth overall at the 32-team event.

The **Northern Virginia U.S. Tennis Association** Super Duper (over 70) men's doubles tennis league is open for registration for the season scheduled to begin in March. Play will be at the Regency Sport and Health Club on Old Meadow Road, McLean. For further information, contact league coordinator Edward Bernier at [EdwardBernier@aol.com](mailto:EdwardBernier@aol.com).

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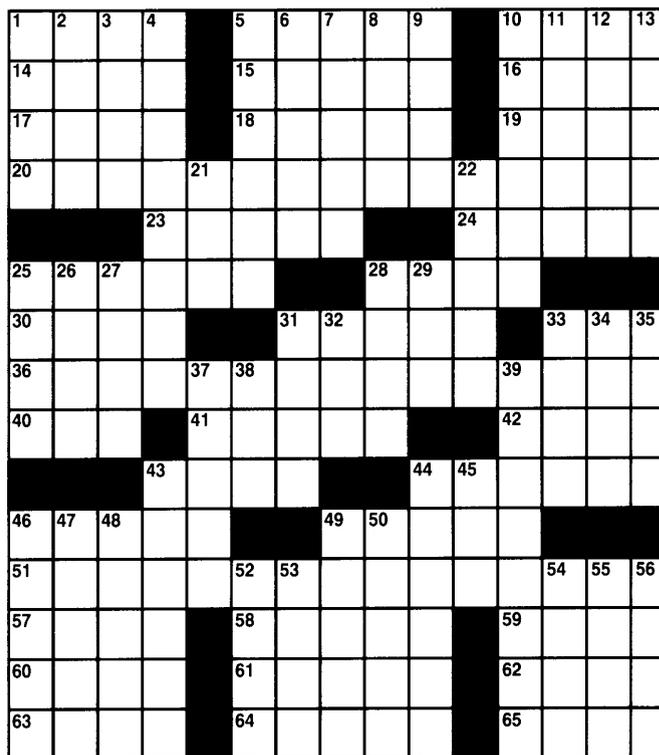
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# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0412-1



Puzzle by Diane C. Baldwin

### ACROSS

- 1 St. Bernard's bark
- 5 Loud kiss
- 10 Air pollution
- 14 Victor who wrote "Les Misérables"
- 15 California border lake
- 16 TV drama length, usually
- 17 Stocking shade
- 18 Cell terminal
- 19 Old-fashioned letter
- 20 Saint-Exupéry lad
- 23 Implore
- 24 Done
- 25 Moves furtively
- 28 Gun's recoil
- 30 Money in 31-Across
- 31 Province in Tuscany
- 33 Indignation
- 36 Arachnid of song
- 40 Vegetable that's hard to eat with a knife
- 41 Rich soils
- 42 Close
- 43 Engagement token

### DOWN

- 10 Psychiatrist
- 11 Pitcher's place
- 12 Cup fraction
- 13 Avarice
- 21 Sort
- 22 Sum up
- 25 Boo-boo
- 26 Paper-and-string flier
- 27 Celestial bear
- 28 Ivories
- 29 Election winners
- 31 For men only
- 32 Doctrine
- 33 Concept
- 44 Olympic prizes
- 46 Football Hall-of-Famer Merlin
- 49 Unbroken
- 51 Nursery rhyme fellow
- 57 Etna output
- 58 Grocery section
- 59 Singer Turner
- 60 In any way
- 61 Look of disdain
- 62 The "E" of B.P.O.E.
- 63 Take care of
- 64 Shorebirds
- 65 Medicinal amount

- 34 Authentic
- 35 Goofs up
- 37 Pancakes served with sour cream
- 38 Charged particle
- 39 Like most paragraphs
- 43 First word on a "lost dog" sign
- 44 Lawn tools
- 45 Samuel's teacher
- 46 Young hooter
- 47 Sailor's time off
- 48 Deadly sins number
- 49 Not so dumb
- 50 Actress Hunt
- 52 Endure
- 53 Unemployment office sight
- 54 Metric weight
- 55 Signs, as a contract
- 56 Repose

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality to limit air pollution emitted by a facility in Reston, Fairfax County, Virginia.

Public comment period: December 18, 2008 to January 20th, 2009

Permit name: State Operating Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the Air Pollution Control Board

APPLICANT Name, address and registration number: Verizon Business; 2400 North Glenville Drive, Richardson, Texas 75082; Registration Number: 73729.

Project description: Verizon Business has applied for a new permit to operate fuel burning equipment at Verizon Business located at 12369 East Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20191. The permit would allow the source to operate one diesel fired engine-generator set.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Elizabeth Aiken; Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193; Phone: 703-583-3890; E-mail: ehaiken@deq.virginia.gov ; Fax: 703-583-3821. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above.

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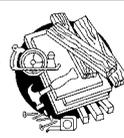
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Kalindi Vyas, 4, waits with other students of the Bharatha Mallika School of Kuchipudi Dance at the Reston Community Center Sunday for the 7th Annual Classic Indian Dance Festival also known as the Sri Siddhendra Aradhana.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**Celebration of Classic Indian Dance**

Swetha Duvvapu, dressed in traditional clothing, was one of many students of the Bharatha Mallika School of Kuchipudi Dance to perform in the Sri Siddhendra Aradhana 2008 Sunday in Reston.



Students of the Bharatha Mallika School of Kuchipudi Dance perform a traditional ritual before participating in the 7th Annual Classic Indian Dance Festival also known as the Sri Siddhendra Aradhana.

# LONG & FOSTER

Reston / Herndon Office

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Light-filled corner unit w/2 master BR/2 full BA. Newly installed SS appliances + gleaming granite counters. Updated windows, flooring. HVAC, light fixtures, paint & more. Walk to shopping, rec facilities, commuter bus. Call Terry 703-861-0538

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**One-of-a-Kind on a 35 Acres!**  
Stately brick colonial on 14.96 wooded acres w/4 fin lvls, 6BR, 5.5BA, 6FP in main house, + 1BR in carriage house. Crestron automation, 10 ft ceilings, hdwds, heated pool/spa, 2 decks, party patio w/built-in BBQ + 2nd full kit in lower lvl. Sale inc 20 ac fenced equestrian lot next door. Call Terry for your private showing. 703-861-0538



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Fabulous custom home has over 6,000 s.f. of living space; is sited on over two thirds of an acre on Cul-de-Sac lot. 5BR, 4.5BA retreat boasts exquisite features highlighted by four BR's up; each w/private BA. Kitchen showcases granite counters, Center Island cooktop, SS appliances, Butler's Pantry, and Chef's Station. Hardwood flrs. throughout main level. Additional amenities include Dual Staircases, Library w/FP and more. Multiple decks provide panoramic views of acres of parkland and meandering stream on the horizon. FX6921328. Call Ron 703-862-7535



**Reston \$899,000**  
**Breathtaking!**  
5 BR former model w/over 4700 fin SF. Stunning 2 story foyer, hdwds, gour kit w/granite & breakfast rm. Beaut FR w/gas, sunlit library, MBR ste w/sitting rm. Fab fin lower lvl walk-up w/rec rm, full guest ste, exercise & game rm, spectacular private lot. Call Missy 703-932-8484



**Herndon \$550,000**  
**Hastings Hunt!**  
Freshly painted! Brand New carpets! Colonial style 4BR, 2.5BA, 3-lvl single family home-spacious rooms throughout. Recently replaced kitchen appliances. Deck overlooking mature trees, fully fenced backyard, and cul-de-sac lot. Easy access to shopping, schools, Dulles Airport/Toll Rd. other commuter routes. FX6915293. Call Elizabeth 703-919-8456



**Reston \$389,950**  
**Great Goodman Contemporary!**  
Walls of glass, hardwood floors, a roof garden & fresh paint await you at this large 3 level, 3BR, 2.5BA home. Lots of space & lots of storage. Call Pat 703-407-3300



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**Central Park at Lowe's Island!**  
2BR, 2BA condo in a 55+ active adult community w/large rooms, 1 car front load garage, balcony- all on one level! The simplified life style with all the conveniences of a lovely home. Call Deborah 703-864-1925



**Culpeper \$300,000**  
**An Elegant Home in the Country!**  
TWO decks, one off the master BR, Jack & Jill bathroom, media rm, play rm, study and so much more!. All on 3 acres! New high school being built. Call Deborah 703-864-1925



**Reston \$905,000**  
**Spectacular!**  
Soaring ceilings, creative angles, light, neutral decorator finishes in desirable N Reston. 1st floor master ste w/luxury BA, 2 story great rm, open kit w/ctr island & breakfast area. Huge fin w/o basement w/5th BR & full BA. Peaceful setting w/fenced rear yd backing trees. Must see! Call Marnie 703-509-3107



**Reston \$475,000**  
**Just Listed!**  
SF home w/2 car garage under 500K in Reston! 3BR, 2.5BA's. Great condition, fresh paint, new windows, doors, newer roof, HVAC & water heater. Updated kit w/granite & SS appl. Two patios, light & bright w/skylights. Close to pool, shopping ctr, Toll Rd, METRO bus stop, & Reston Town Ctr. Call Marnie 703-509-3107.



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