

# Heartbreaking Choices

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**State Senator Janet D. Howell (D-32) writes a diary on her week in Richmond.**

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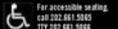


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On receiving his award, Alvarez LeCesne talks Barack Obama and Bob Simon.



Shirley Guetio of South Lakes High School accepts her community service award.

PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

## VIEWPOINTS

### Residents Reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King's Day, Obama Inauguration

— STEVEN M. SILTON

#### Robert Spears, Reston

"Martin Luther King was trying to be peaceful and Obama is going to fulfill his dream. I'm glad I'm alive to see it be fulfilled."



#### Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C.

"It's a miracle. He started his campaign for president on faith. Martin Luther King's faith told him that all human beings will be equal and there will be no color barrier. Miracles can happen."



#### Paula Kun, Herndon

"It's the most beautiful thing in the world and it is awe inspiring."



#### Dr. Michael McKee, Reston

"The connection is the promise. The promise of Martin Luther King was non violence. Obama's promise is hope and change we can believe in."



#### Dingwall Fleary, Sterling

"It is a wonderful coincidence that the inauguration of America's first African-American president falls within a few days of Dr. King's birthday. It represents everything that Martin Luther King fought and died for. The unification of the peoples of the United States."



# Service Honored on King Day

## RCC presents community service awards, hears anchorman's relish.

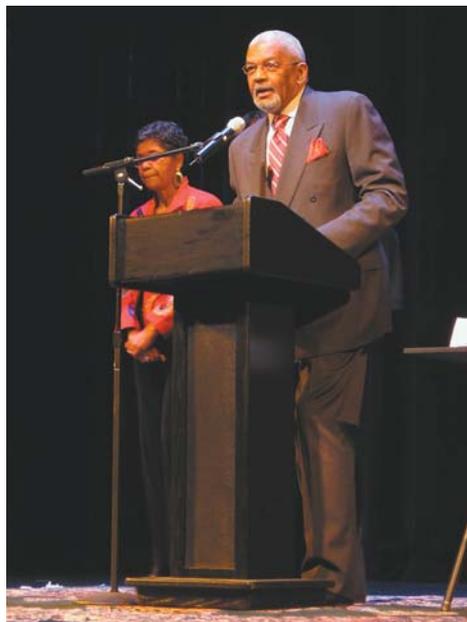
BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

When Martin Luther King was assassinated, he had been fighting for the rights of sanitation workers, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) told the crowd assembled for Reston Community Center's Martin Luther King Day celebration Monday morning. "He was on the battlefield, working for those who were less fortunate," she said.

So do many in Reston work to help those in need, Hudgins said. "We know that we're facing difficult times, but it's in these difficult times that our community comes together." She encouraged everyone to continue to think about what they could give of themselves, remarking that Barack Obama's new presidency could only pull the nation out of its current difficulties with the help of its people.

In that spirit, the Reston Community Center (RCC) presented three community service awards — one each for a youth, an adult and an organization — as part of the celebration.

**PRESENTING THE FIRST AWARD** to Shirley Guetio of South Lakes High School, RCC executive director Leila Gordon remarked on the student's volunteer efforts to promote understanding among people of



News4 anchor Jim Vance addresses the Reston crowd.

various ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. Guetio has been active in her school as a member of the Model United Nations, the Debate Club and the South Lakes International Club for Education/Entertainment (SLICE).

And, as an artist-ambassador, Gordon said, "she has done enormous credit to her family and her community and her own ideals."

Guetio said only that she was proud to be part of a historic moment and that she had, at least initially, been mystified as to why she was chosen for the award.

The award for an adult went to Alvarez LeCesne, who Gordon said had been involved in numerous health initiatives, the Reston Multicultural Festival and previous

Martin Luther King Day event planning committees. However, she said, he was especially being recognized as the executive director of the Emerging Scholars Program, which seeks out promising fourth-graders overcoming serious disadvantages and provides them 14 months of academic and leadership training. The program, Gordon said, brings about "the emergence of those among us who have less to work with and more to give."

LeCesne, however, preferred to talk about Reston's original founder and the country's new president rather than about himself. His son, he said, would be the only American he knew of to celebrate Obama's inauguration in Denmark, but he would not celebrate alone. A Danish coworker had told LeCesne's son that he had wept on the United States' election night. So the impact of the inauguration was being felt far beyond this country, LeCesne said. "It continues, again, with all of us picking up that torch and carrying it."

He also thanked Reston founder Bob Simon for bringing his dream to life in the creation of the community. As part of the training for his emerging scholars, LeCesne invites prominent speakers to address the children and Simon has been one of those, he said.

The award for an organization came full circle this year. The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce originated the idea of giving out community service awards as part of the event, and now it was receiving one. Gordon said the choice was based on the organization's support of South Lakes High School's Ethics Day, its business incubator program, its annual partnership with Interfaith Reston for the Thanksgiving Day food

SEE LEGACY, PAGE 12

## Attempted Burglary

Police are investigating an attempted burglary that occurred Wednesday, Jan. 14, in the 1800 block of Sycamore Valley Drive in Reston. Around 6 a.m., a 29-year-old woman was leaving her apartment when she was surprised by a man at her door, according to police. The suspect brandished a gun and tried to force his way into her apartment. The victim fought back and was able to shut her door, locking the suspect outside. The victim did not require medical treatment.

The suspect was described as black, about 6 feet tall and 190 pounds with a thin build. He was wearing athletic-type, dark pants, a gray jacket and a black ski cap that covered his face.

This man may have been seen in the area of the complex prior to this incident and investigators would like to speak with anyone who may have seen him. 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.

## Business Compliance Checks

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, officers of the Reston District Station's Neighborhood Patrol Unit, conducted business compliance checks at several locations in the Reston and Herndon areas of Fairfax County. This sting is part of the ongoing youth alcohol enforcement campaign, which was conducted using a Fairfax County police cadet dressed in plain clothes attempting to purchase alcohol.

The police cadet was instructed to enter the locations and attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages and then attempt payment: 22 locations were entered with no arrests made for illegal sale of alcohol to a minor. The sting was conducted using one team consisting of two plain-clothed officers, two uniformed officers and one cadet.

## Plum Elected Caucus Chair

Members of the Democratic Caucus of the Virginia House of Delegates elected Del. Kenneth R. Plum of Reston as the chairman of the Caucus as the General Assembly began its annual session.

"I appreciate the support of my peers and look forward to the opportunity to lead this group of devoted representatives in the House of Delegates," Plum said. "These are critical times for Virginia, with our economy in crisis and transportation in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads at a standstill. I look forward to dealing with these and other important issues as Democratic Caucus chairman."

## Lake Fairfax Lures Anglers

Lake Fairfax Park is one of two Fairfax County Park Authority lakefront parks being stocked with thousands of pounds of safe-to-eat rainbow trout this spring. The fish will be transported from a farm to Lake Fairfax and Lake Accotink as part of the annual spring stocking program. Residents are encouraged to experience the excitement of catch-and-release fishing from February through April.

Each park will be stocked every two weeks, with the first Lake Fairfax stocking slated for Friday, Feb. 13. Fishing will begin on the same day. Both parks allow fishing from 7 a.m. until dusk.

Participants age 16 to 59 can purchase a season pass for \$35 or a one-day pass for \$12 at either park for use at both locations. A current Virginia fishing license is also required for fishermen 16 years and older; however, a state-issued trout stamp is not. Pass holders are limited to one pole per person and six fish per day. Netting and snagging are prohibited.

Lake Fairfax Park will be stocked again Feb. 27, March 13, March 27 and April 10.

Lake Fairfax Park is located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Call 703-471-5414. For information about the fishing program, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trout2008.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trout2008.htm). For information about the park, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax).

## NEWS



PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Students from South Lakes' political science class got to dine with the former congressman before his speech last Wednesday.

## King's Challenge Posed at South Lakes

### Former congressman challenges, entertains students at Martin Luther King Day speech.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

Speeches about Martin Luther King Day were among the few school assemblies that had received Harold Ford Jr.'s full attention during his school days, he told students of South Lakes High and Langston Hughes Middle schools at the Martin Luther King Day assembly where he was the keynote speaker last Wednesday, Jan. 14.

He said he had appreciated being challenged at those assemblies to live up to the civil rights leader's example and strive for social justice.

**THE YOUNG**, black former Tennessee congressman, now chair of the Democratic Leadership Council and NBC/MSNBC political analyst, had proven to be a hit at South Lakes last Martin Luther King Day and the Reston Community Center had arranged for him to return.

"Our kids really connected with him last year, so we were really excited he was able to come back," South Lakes Principal Bruce Butler said after the speech.

"On this holiday, everybody's going to focus on, 'The dream has been realized,' and, 'Martin Luther King would be so proud,'" Ford



**Harold Ford Jr. addresses South Lakes High School and Langston Hughes Middle School students during the run-up to Martin Luther King Day.**

told the full house of about 450 South Lakes students and 200 Langston Hughes students in the South Lakes "little theater," referring to the approaching inauguration of the country's first black president. "I have a different view."

He said King would challenge Barack Obama to promote justice, fairness and compassion just as rigorously as he would have challenged the president-elect's former

competitors, had any of them won the election. To live up to the challenge, he said, Obama would need to seek a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, push many countries to put women on a more equal footing with men and find ways to stop sending oil money to countries that foster anti-American attitudes.

Political science student Arfa Aijazi had asked Ford how he, as a racial "trailblazer" in politics, felt about the election, and he had noted that President George W. Bush had played no small part in the results, Aijazi reported later.

"In the last eight years, we've had some problems," Ford said. "President Bush may not deserve all the blame, but if things had gone well, rest assured, he would take the credit."

Ford also challenged the students to confront a time in American history when the future was uncertain. In his school days, he said, it was assumed that Americans' positions would continue to improve, homes would always appreciate in value, and pensions and incomes could be relied upon, "just because." Now, he said, the country is nearing a time when "just because" was not enough reason to expect such security. In that situation, King would want the country to not only remain an economic and political leader in the world, but also to keep the role of moral leadership, he said.

"I think it's the first time we've been straight-out told that," Elisa

SEE KING, PAGE 14

# Reston Robberies Spike

Six incidents occur in three weeks.

Reston saw a spate of armed robberies over the month of October and a few took place in May, but little in recent history compares to the rash of half a dozen such incidents between Christmas and the first half of January.

According to police spokesman Don Gotthardt, a rise in such crimes is not unusual during the winter. "Historically, between November and February, we do see a rise in robberies, a rise in street crime," Gotthardt said.

Relative to some other parts of the county, the lead-up to the holidays was relatively calm in Reston, although there was one bank robbery in late November.

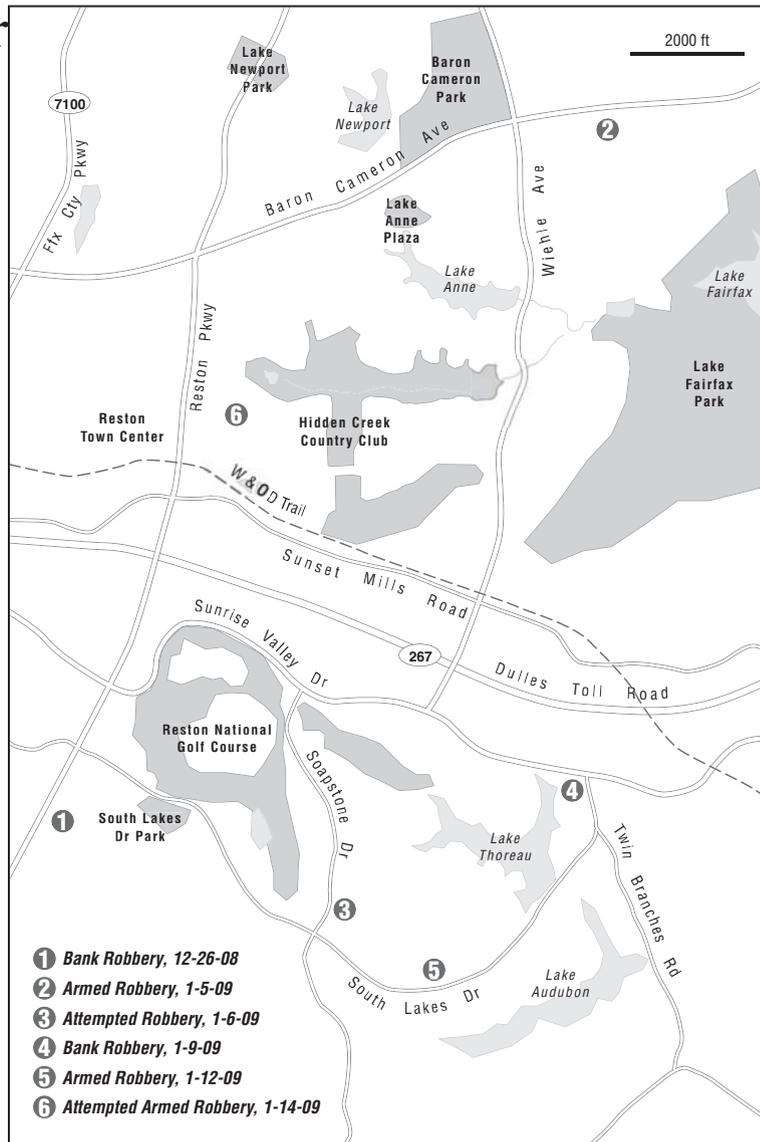
Then, on the day after Christmas, a Wachovia Bank on Colts Neck Road was robbed.

On Jan. 5, a man was robbed at gunpoint while walking from his car to his home on Saffold Way at about 7 in the evening. Since he had no cash, the victim surrendered his cell phone and the perpetrator fled on a bicycle.

The next night, a man attempted to rob a 7-Eleven on Soapstone Drive. He produced a gun and demanded money, but then fled when a car pulled into the parking lot.

Two days later, on Jan. 9, a BB&T Bank on South Lakes Drive was robbed. Shortly after dark, a man entered the bank and brandished a handgun, demanding money. After the cash was handed over, he fled on foot through a pedestrian tunnel under South Lakes Drive.

A 17-year-old boy was robbed at gunpoint on a path near South Lakes High School, Jan. 12, at



- 1 Bank Robbery, 12-26-08
- 2 Armed Robbery, 1-5-09
- 3 Attempted Robbery, 1-6-09
- 4 Bank Robbery, 1-9-09
- 5 Armed Robbery, 1-12-09
- 6 Attempted Armed Robbery, 1-14-09

MAP BY LAURENCE FOONG/THE CONNECTION

Half a dozen armed robberies or burglaries were pulled off or attempted in Reston since Christmas.

about 8 p.m. As he passed a group of five men, one of them pushed him down and another pointed a gun at him. The group took the boy's backpack and cell phone and then fled on foot.

On the morning of Jan. 14, a woman was leaving her apartment on Sycamore Valley Drive when she was surprised by a man at the door. He displayed a gun and tried to force his way into the

apartment, but the woman was able to fight him off and shut the door, locking him out.

Gotthardt said police were not viewing any of the crimes as being connected at this point, although witnesses to the robberies of the two banks and the 7-Eleven gave similar descriptions of the perpetrators, each describing a

SEE ROBBERIES, PAGE 14

## Century Celebrated with Oysters

When Laurence Malone was asked what he wanted for his 100th birthday Jan. 3, he told his son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Toni Malone, with whom he lives in North Reston, that his fondest wish was "pan-fried oysters from McCormick & Schmick's." So, on the afternoon of his birthday, McCormick & Schmick's General Manager Melody Casbarian and Chef Franklin Campos visited the Malone home, where they prepared and presented two dozen oysters and a commemorative menu to Reston's latest centenarian.



Laurence Malone is presented pan-fried oysters — his 100th birthday request — by McCormick & Schmick's Chef Franklin Campos and General Manager Melody Casbarian. Joining Malone is his 8-year-old great-granddaughter, Casey Radney, of Ashburn.

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# Heartbreaking Choices

Personal reflections on first week of Assembly session.

BY JANET D. HOWELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-32)

**S**unday, Jan. 11: The Sunday before the session starts I am always filled with anxiety and anticipation. Not knowing what will happen is stressful, but I am eternally optimistic that we will be able to make Virginia even better.

The morning was spent packing. I pack every professional looking outfit I own. Then I throw the suitcases and a portable closet into the back of the car and head down I-95 to the hotel I have stayed in for more than 20 years.

During the drive I reminisced about the hundreds of people who waited hours to speak at the four public hearings I co-sponsored over the past week. The range of topics was extensive and the tone was even more intense than usual. Three billion dollars in additional budget cuts over the \$2 billion already taken will impact every aspect of state and local government.

Particularly heartbreaking are the proposed cuts to health and human resources. Virginia ranks 48th among the states in services for our sick, elderly and disabled. People are right to be alarmed. The haste with which we are going to have to implement the cuts is adding to the concern.

Environmental proposals were mentioned much more than previously. Since many proposals are revenue neutral, I am hopeful they will be successful.

I was surprised how silent the public education supporters have been at the hearings. We are looking at cutting K-12 education about half a billion dollars, yet fewer than 10 people addressed the subject. My position is that we should not make permanent changes to SOQ [Standards of Quality] requirements but should take one-time savings and give local school boards discretion on further cuts.

**MONDAY, JAN. 12:** This morning I intended to make sure my bills were introduced or ready to go. People were in and out of my office all morning. Advocates, lobbyists, administration officials — all had pressing, urgent business. I am going to burn the midnight oil tonight!

I am introducing more than 25 bills, which is frankly insane since I have so many other responsibilities. But I really believe in these pieces of legislation. This year I am introducing the 30-cent tobacco tax increase, no excuse in-person absentee voting, expansion of group life insurance and major mental-health law reform bills.

Two bills come from my constituents. Members of community suggested that a Parent Education Program be required as part of the DMV licensing process for teens. The other bill will strengthen the danger-



**State Senator Janet D. Howell (D-32) on proposed budget: “Particularly heartbreaking are the proposed cuts to health and human resources.”**

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE POWER/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

ous dog provisions of the code. Marauding pit bulls killed a local family's pet cat and terrified the neighborhood, which was very near an elementary school. That is unacceptable.

This afternoon the finance subcommittee on Health and Human Resources began its deliberations. The administration defended its plans. No one is happy. Unlike the federal government we are constitutionally required to have a balanced budget — so cut we must.

Crafting a budget is going to be very difficult this year. We do not know what our revenues will be because the economy is failing so rapidly and we do not know what help we will get from the federal government.

A lovely half-hour was spent at the unveiling of the portrait of John Chichester, a hero of mine because of his courageous stands as chairman of Senate Finance. There were lots of laughs when Senator Colgan said we were witnessing the “hanging of Sen. Chichester!”

I am part of quiet discussions going on with members of the minority party to see if we can work in a more positive manner this session. For years I was so proud of how the senators worked across party and regional lines. Somehow we lost that last year. The issues are too dire this year to engage in partisan bickering.

After a too fattening dinner, I am back at the office. At least I can concentrate!

**TUESDAY, JAN. 13:** At 8 a.m. the Senate Democratic Caucus had our fund-raising breakfast. A few years ago the room was almost empty. Today it was overflowing.

There was drama at the Crime Commission. Television cameras were everywhere as we discussed closing the gun-show loophole. Even with the families of victims of the Virginia Tech tragedy advocating, our side failed to win. I do not understand why the gun lobby is so afraid of requiring all purchasers to undergo background checks at gun shows. Do they really want felons, people subject to protective orders and

those who have been committed to mental-health treatment to purchase guns?

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14:** Today the session started. I love the first day because of the traditions involved. It is quite formal and in the evening Governor Kaine will address us in joint session.

You never know when serious disagreements will break out. Today, for example, the Republicans in the House refused to follow the law and seat the newly elected member from Alexandria even though she was certified the winner. Soon thereafter the two courts committees met to interview five sitting judges for reappointment. Bitter debate arose over whether or not we should view the evaluations performed by the Supreme Court to help us as we reappoint judges. In the end, the five judges were sent home without their interviews. They were victims of other battles raging behind the scene.

Big news! Ken Plum of Reston was elected House Democratic Caucus chair. Ken is one of the smartest and most decent members of the House and a very close friend. He will do a great job.

Several hours were spent today in meetings to get ready for the committees I chair. With the ascendancy of the Democrats last year, I now have a lot of responsibility.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 15:** The Education and Health Committee met this morning. We actually recommended a few bills. The pace is about to pick up!

Several folks, including the president of Virginia Tech, stopped by to advocate for their budgets. A funny encounter happened when a group from Chesapeake Community College stopped by. I wondered why they wanted to see me since they are so far from NoVa. The minute they saw me, they realized their mistake. They wanted Del. Algie Howell, an African-American man! We had a great visit anyway.

I co-chaired an unusual joint meeting of the two Privileges and Elections Committees to review the 2008 elections. Given the numbers of voters and the fact Virginia was a battlefield state, I was very pleased with the job our state employees, election officials, registrars, volunteers and state police did. One big lesson was that Virginians are acting like we have early voting. More than 320,000 people voted in person absentee. I was very disheartened by House Republican comments at the meeting. They are going to oppose all early voting proposals, no matter how sensible.

One of my favorite receptions was tonight given by the Asian Pacific American coalition. Great folks, great food.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 16:** This morning I chaired the public safety subcommittee of Finance. We oversee \$3.5 billion of taxpayer money. Our biggest responsibilities are the Departments of Corrections, Juvenile Justice and State Police. Cuts will decimate the pro-

SEE JOB I LOVE, PAGE 9

## RICHMOND REPORT

# Eventful First Week

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

The opening day of the General Assembly offered a glimmer of hope that the bipartisan bickering of the past might give way to a more cooperative spirit. The speaker of the House announced that subcommittee votes would be recorded for the first time. More than a third of the bills in the House had been defeated in subcommittees last year with no record of member votes. For the past two sessions my amendment to the rules to require recorded votes had been defeated on a straight party-line vote. Likewise, the speaker announced that he would permit live television coverage of House floor sessions. Several of my colleagues had proposed such coverage in the past only to be rebuffed by the majority party.

But hopes for a new spirit of cooperation ended soon after the opening gavel as the Republicans refused to allow the seating of Charniele Herring, the newly elected delegate from the 46th District, even though the State Board of Elections had certified her election. While there will be a recount of votes, she should have been seated to provide representation for the district in the meantime. In another act of blatant partisanship, the Republicans called a special committee meeting to rush through a bill aimed at ending legislators' participation in the traditional



Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Day event. As one delegate observed, people are losing their homes and their jobs in the current economic crisis while the majority party seeks to play partisan political games.

My Democratic colleagues in the House elected me their Caucus Chair. My first action in my new role was to write to my counterpart in the Republican Caucus and ask him if we could expedite bills related to the economic recession. I also requested that members of both political parties' caucuses be free to vote their conscience on issues on the floor. The Republican Caucus has a rule that if three-fourths of their members support a position, all members of their caucus must support that position. Democrats have no similar rule. The result is that no bipartisan agreements are possible. The "binding caucus" rule must go if we are to reach compromise on important issues.

You can view daily House of Delegates floor sessions at <http://legis.virginia.gov>. As always, write to me at [kenplum@aol.com](mailto:kenplum@aol.com) with your ideas and suggestions.

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# OPINION

## Watch Them Live

Two steps for more openness in General Assembly.

**T**his year for the first time, Virginians can check in on what their state representatives are up to without a trip to Richmond.

The House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia will offer live streaming video of the 2009 Legislative Session, broadcasting from each chamber every day of the session.

The daily broadcasts will begin when each body convenes.

The 2009 legislative session Virginia General Assembly convened on Jan. 14, and will run 45 days.

Go to <http://legis.state.va.us/>. Links for streaming video and also an audio only option, are appropriately front and center.

More than one-third of all legislation proposed in the Virginia General Assembly dies in

### EDITORIAL

subcommittee. And in previous years, the votes of the subcommittee members were not recorded. There was no accountability for legislators who “tabled” proposals that were important to Virginians.

This year, subcommittee votes will be recorded and available on the General Assembly's Web site. It's an important step.

### TIME FOR SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

Gov. Tim Kaine (D) is promoting legislation that would ban smoking in restaurants in Virginia. We support his efforts.

Secondhand smoke kills 1,700 Virginians per year, according to the Virginia Department of Health. Levels of secondhand smoke are up to

five times higher in restaurants than in homes with smokers, according to the American Lung Association.

If the General Assembly doesn't pass legislation banning smoking in restaurants, it should at least allow localities the power to restrict smoking within their borders.

### CONSTITUENT VIEWPOINTS

The House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia operate a toll-free message center to accept calls from citizens who want to express an opinion on legislation. The messages are relayed to the members' offices as requested. Call the Constituent Viewpoint line at 800-889-0229.

## Avoiding a Train Wreck

BY JACK KENNY  
PAST PRESIDENT, REPUBLICAN  
CLUB OF GREATER RESTON



### A DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW

how much it will cost.

In the past seven years, we have seen our real estate taxes double. Take out your real estate tax bill from seven years ago and compare it to last year's. We have seen our children's test scores stay static. We have seen our teachers' pay, once the highest in the metropolitan area slip to seventh place. We have seen the crime rate steadily increase. And most of all, we are facing a \$650M budget shortfall — more than the combined budgets of the police, fire and rescue, sheriff, libraries, parks and the health

departments. Ask yourself, “Are you better off given you pay twice as much in taxes?” Our county's fiscal future is in shambles — a train wreck on the way.

It is well past time for the leadership of the county to change. We have seen misplaced actions — \$200M to buy government housing, the eligibility income for public housing is \$99,000. We have squandered millions on grants, frills and wasteful spending. Yet, our core services have suffered as a result.

We need a drastic change in the direction the county has followed. We need to get back to the basics of planning and budgeting and fiscal responsibility — concentrating on our core services. We can no longer avoid doing something about transportation. Fairfax County is starting to lose businesses. It is getting harder for our economic development people to put forward a picture of a dynamic, business-friendly community.

To put it directly, we need Supervisor Pat Herrity in the chairman's seat. Pat, son of the late Jack Herrity, is a chip off the old block. Recall, when Jack Herrity was chairman we got the Fairfax County Parkway built, we got the Taj Mahal government complex built, we got recreation centers, parks and schools built keeping pace with the growth. Pat promises to control our spending — taking only as much out of our pockets as is needed for core government services. Pat will ensure that our schools will get the resources they need; to see that our teachers are paid up to scale and our test scores start on an upward trend. He will focus on public safety, gangs, crime and illegal boarding houses. Most of all Pat will ensure fiscal discipline returns to the government center so we do not experience a fiscal train wreck.

Vote Tuesday, February 3, at your regular poll location. The polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Vote — our future is at stake!

## Show Support for Stream Restoration

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, the Design Review Board will decide on the restoration of The Glade from its headwaters to Steeple Chase Road. I strongly urge all Reston residents who support the restoration of the streams in Reston to attend this meeting to show your support.

Many people were not aware of the stream restoration effort until the Snakeden restoration reached Soapstone Road. About 10 years ago the watershed subcommittee of the Environmental and Ecology Advisory Committee started work on a “Watershed White Paper.” The goal of the white paper was to get the board to approve the creation of a watershed master plan to deal with our watershed in a comprehensive manner. In the December of 2000 the RA board voted to support the goals of the white paper

and in July of 2002 RA and a stakeholder group called Reston Watershed Action Group (ResWAG) presented the watershed master plan to a public audience of about 100 people.

Getting funding for the 3 million dollars over 10 years to execute the plan turned out to be the tough part. We were requested by the board to use outside funding as much as possible. We tried grant money, but there were two problems with that. The first was that they are usually matching grants

so we still had to come up with half and the other was that the grants were usually only a few thousand dollars. We tried to get funding for a grant writer to write all these grants, but there was still not enough funding in the budget for that. The fact is that RA did not and does not have that kind of money. In meetings where I asked for that money it was pointed out that RA has a spend

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

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# NEWS

## Job I Love

FROM PAGE 6

grams. Already we are closing prisons. But I truly view the shortfall as an opportunity to modernize and reform what we do in public safety, especially corrections. I am extremely fortunate with the members of my subcommittee. We are Democrats and Republicans from across Virginia, but we are all team players and share a similar vision on the direction we want to go.

This afternoon was spent working with my "Docket Committee." As chairman of Privileges and Elections I set the agenda for each meeting and refer bills to various subcommittees. My policy is to hear every bill. That sounds obvious, but many chairmen in the House do not do it.

As I drive home, I will mentally prepare for tomorrow. The last of my town meetings will be in Herndon. Then I will be celebrating the inauguration at the Denim to Diamonds Ball — since I don't have diamonds, I'll wear denim!

Thanks for sharing my week. And thanks for electing me to this job that I love!



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— Geoff Tracy, Chef, Owner of  
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Winter hours: Monday – Saturday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm • Sunday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm <a href="http://www.MerrifieldGardenCenter.com">www.MerrifieldGardenCenter.com</a>		

# 101 WAYS TO HAVE FUN

## Part three of "gun things to-do" in Herndon, Reston area series.

### Serve Up an Ace

**Reston Association Tennis Courts**  
www.reston.org  
The Reston Association offers residents one of the most extensive tennis programs in Northern Virginia. There are 49 tennis courts operated by the Reston Association, 26 of which are lighted and can be used for nighttime play. The program also runs tennis camps, lessons and tournaments year-round. The association operates both clay and hardwood courts, and both are open for rental. Residents may also look for playing partners through the program's web site. Lessons are available to players of all ages from beginners to advanced. The courts are also open to birthday parties. In addition, the association operates its own pro shop for tennis equipment.

### Take a Lap

**South Lakes High School Track**  
11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston  
South Lakes High School's track is open to residents in the evenings and on weekends. Run on the same track as Olympic and international track star and South Lakes alumnus Alan Webb. Webb holds the

high school mile record, which he set when attending SLHS. Recently, Webb ran and won several events at the U.S. Track and Field Championships. Who knows? Maybe some of his speed might rub off on you.

### Ice Skating

**Indoor: SkateQuest**  
1800 Michael Faraday Court, Reston  
703-709-6300  
**Outdoor: Reston Town Center Pavilion**  
1818 Discovery St., Reston  
703-709-1010  
If you enjoy figure-eights, executing double axles or just watching the zamboni, Reston is home to two skating rinks. The Reston Town Center's outdoor ice rink is a great place to enjoy the cold weather. Open from November to mid-March, the Pavilion is transformed into a rink with skates and supplies available for rent. **SkateQuest** is Reston's indoor rink and offers a venue for hockey, figure skating, parties, classes and public sessions. Occasionally, SkateQuest hosts a charity hockey game between the FBI and the Secret Service. Call or visit skatequest.com for a full listing of programs.

### As Fast As You Want

**W&OD Trail**  
Jump on the Washington and Old Dominion Trail (W&OD Trail), which runs for more than 40 miles and through the length of Reston, and enjoy a walk, a run or a bike ride. The paved trail is often a safe place to exercise and is used by many commuters, as well as local residents.

### Race for Turkeys

**5K Turkey Trot**  
**Herndon Centennial Golf Course**  
909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon  
Think you're fast? Come show your speed at Herndon's Centennial Golf Course in November for the Turkey Trot 5K Race. The town's fastest people will show up to shed their soon-to-be visible holiday weight in this annual 5K race. The first-place prize is a turkey. For more information call 703-435-6868.

### Weather Outside Doesn't Matter

**Reston Community Center Indoor Pool**  
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston  
Visit the Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods throughout the year for a swimming experience, whether the weather is scorching hot or freezing cold. Along with swim lanes, the swimming pool also offers programs for both younger and older Reston residents from swim lessons to therapeutic exercises. For more information, including fees and times of operation, visit www.restoncommunitycenter.org.

### Water, Water Everywhere

**Water Mine Water Park**  
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston  
The Water Mine water park sits on more than an acre of land in



Maestro Dingwall Fleary leads the audience in song during the Reston Community Orchestra concert last Saturday.

Lake Fairfax Park. The water park features slides, showers, and flume rides a plenty, all built around Pete's Pike, a boarded mine shaft covered mountain, out of which protrude two huge slides. All of this is surrounded by Rattlesnake River, in which visitors can relax on floating tubes. The park is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day and the hours vary throughout the season. Children under two years old get in free. The price includes admission to the carousel on Lake Fairfax grounds. Season passes are also available. For more information on admission prices and hours, visit the park web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/watermine.

### Making A Splash

**Reston Association Pools**  
www.reston.org  
With 15 pools throughout Reston, there are plenty of chances to cool off during the hot summer months. The home for all water-based activities, including the Reston Swim Team Association, Water Volleyball, and various other programs, there is always some-

thing fun happening at the pool. Check the web site for locations, hours and prices.

### Fore!

**Reston National Golf Course**  
11875 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston  
703-620-9333  
Reston National Golf Course is an 18 hole with a 71-par course. The club also offers lessons, a driving range, a putting green, and rents equipment. Home to tournaments throughout the year, the club can also be rented out for various events. Many high schools practice on the course, and it is open five days a week. Prices differ depending on time and day. Twilight prices are also available, and there is a \$15 caddie fee. Tee times must be reserved seven days in advance. For more information, visit the course web site at virginia.golf.com/restonnational.html.

### Drive Away From Busy

**Golf Park at Hunter Mill**  
1627 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna  
703-759-5664  
Escape Northern Virginia's busy lifestyle by landing yards away from one of its busiest roads, the Dulles Toll Road, and between two of its busiest business centers, Tysons Corner and Reston. The Golf Park at Hunter Mill, a driving range and a practice facility, is located on the east side of Hunter Mill Road, near the road's intersection with Sunset Hills Road and interchange with the Dulles Toll Road. The park is open every day but Christmas, barring extreme weather conditions, from 9 a.m. until dark. Prices for the drive balls range from \$4 for about 35 balls

to \$10 for about 115 balls. For more information visit http://www.huntermillgolf.com.

### Sharpen Putting Skills

**Woody's Golf Range**  
11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon  
703-430-8337  
Woody's Golf Range off of Route 7 in Herndon is the perfect place to perfect a golf stroke, a baseball swing and a mini-golf handicap all within a few feet of each other as the 33-acre facility offers a full driving range, batting cages and 18 holes of mini-golf year-round. For the next Tiger Woods or Alfonso Soriano of the family, there are staff golf and baseball professionals accessible for lessons. Picnic grounds are available for families looking to eat together after fitting in the back nine on the mini-golf course.

### HIGH-SCHOOL SPORTS

### Support the Seahawks

South Lakes High School  
11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston  
703-715-4500  
The Northern Region boasts some of the country's finest and most competitive high school talent. South Lakes houses one of the most competitive high school basketball programs in the area with one of the most well-respected coaches in the Northern Region and country. The Seahawks basketball program has produced some of basketball's finest talent including Detroit Piston and Orlando Magic star Grant Hill. The track team's start, U.S. Olympian Alan Webb, graduated in 2001. For more information on South Lakes High

School activities go to www.fcps.k12.va.us/SouthLakes.

### Cheer the Hornets

700 Bennet St., Herndon  
**Athletic Hotline, 703-749-8133**  
Become a part of the rallying center of Herndon community pride and enter the "hornets nest" by attending a Herndon High School sporting event. With football in the fall, basketball in the winter and baseball in the summer, there is always an opportunity to see Herndon's best and brightest young athletes compete against other area high schools. Tickets are limited and sell out quickly, especially for marquee events.

### Music

### Spotlight on CenterStage

**The Center Stage**  
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston  
Browsing the list of performers that come through the Reston Community Center's CenterStage, it's apparent that this facility is at the heart of the music community in Reston. From author Nick Hornby to Irish acoustic band Lunasa, the CenterStage brings in an eclectic variety of top-notch artists throughout the year. Set in an intimate theater, programs often allow the audience the opportunity for Q & A's, as well as after performance book signings. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com for a schedule of performances.

### Perfect Harmony

**Voce Chamber Singers**  
703-277-7772  
Voce is a Reston-based choral group that is one of the most acclaimed in the area. Since 1989, Voce has been singing choral chamber music across the region. They have sung at the Kennedy Center and St. Thomas More Cathedral, have performed with the Washington Symphony Orchestra, and been featured on WETA. The group performs all around the Washington D.C. area, but a majority of their performances are in the Reston/Herndon area. The 22-member group has sung commissioned pieces to national acclaim. To get more information on upcoming events and performances, visit www.voce.org.

### Watch Reston Chamber Orchestra

**Reston Community Orchestra**  
www.restoncommunityorchestra.org  
The Reston Community Orchestra was founded in 1988 and has since become one of the area's best

community orchestras. Preferring to remain a small chamber orchestra, the group performs around the community and region, sometimes in conjunction with the McLean Symphony Orchestra. The music director is Dingwall Fleary, who has held the position for 10 years. The orchestra is always on the lookout for new members and volunteers. Visit www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

### "Take A Break"

### Concerts

Reston Community Center Lake Anne  
1609-A Washington Square Plaza, Reston  
The Reston Community Center invites you to "take a break" and enjoy the sounds of this eclectic line-up of musicians. Every Thursday from June 1 to the end of August the RCC provides free concerts and invites the public to bring a lawn chair and picnic basket. In the past bands have ranged from 1950's pop to World Beat-Reggae. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com for more.

### Music and Dancing With Taste

**Jasmine Café**  
Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston  
Enjoy the food at one of Reston's favorite dining destinations on historic Washington Plaza while experiencing terrific live entertainment. Jasmine Café has live music every Saturday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information call 703-471-9114.

### Listen to Music Lakeside

**The Lakeside Inn**  
11150 South Lakes Drive, Reston  
703-264-0781  
Local single and duets acts take the stage every Friday and Saturday night starting at 9 p.m. The Lakeside Inn overlooks Lake Thoreau and offers a variety of food. For more information go to www.thelakesideinn.com.

### All that Jazz

**Market Street Bar & Grill**  
1800 President's St., Reston  
703-709-1234  
Nothing adds to the atmosphere of dining like a little live jazz for mood music. The Market Street Bar & Grill, located in Reston Town Center, is the home of jazz musician Mykle Lyons. His group performs Thursday, Friday and Saturdays from 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Visit reston.hyatt.com for more.

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## NEWS

# King's Legacy Honored

FROM PAGE 3

drive and the Best of Reston awards and other philanthropic initiatives.

**SPEAKING** on behalf of the chamber, president Jen Sterling kept her remarks short: "It's purely our pleasure to work and serve in the community and we look forward to doing it for years to come."

And, in his keynote speech, News4 anchorman Jim Vance remarked that King's dream would continue to find sustenance in the hearts of the millions of Americans who would perform volunteer work that day, as part of the King Day of Service, instead of going shopping.

He also took some time to revel in the satisfaction of celebrating Martin Luther King Day on the day before the inauguration of the country's first black president.

When it became clear on election night that victory would go to Obama, Vance said, he maintained his composure until the cameras cut away. Then, "I turned around in my chair in a cascade of tears. I called my old

man and I said out loud, 'Who'da thunk it?'"

While he had always enjoyed the sight of the monuments and buildings of the nation's capital whenever he flew into town, Vance said, "What a thrill it will be now to see that White House and know there's a brother in there who looks like my daddy."

He noted the progress the country had made since he arrived in Washington, D.C., in 1969, at the age of 27. Upon his arrival, he said, he had stopped and asked two young, white police officers for directions to Massachusetts Avenue. After ignoring his repeated entreaties, the two men had finally glared at him forcefully enough that he took a step back and showed his hands. He finally got a mumbled response.

While he regretted that he had still had to teach his son to respond to police officers in a similar way, Vance said he assumed that the two officers "who humiliated me all those years ago" had changed in the interim 40 years.

"I will bet you that at least one, if not both of those guys ... voted for Obama."

## FOOD & DRINK

**Il Fornaio**, 11900 Market St., Reston, is hosting a **wine dinner** featuring seven courses paired with wine Tuesday, **Jan. 27**, 7 p.m. The restaurant will also host a **cooking class** Saturday, **Jan. 24**, 12-3 p.m. Call 703-437-5544.

"**Restaurant Week**" will be held at Jasmine Café, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston, through **Jan. 24**. Three-course prix-fixe menu. Call 703-471-9114 for reservations.

**Celebrate National Chocolate Day** with complimentary fudge tasting Tuesday, **Jan. 27** at Edibles Incredible Desserts, 11900 Market St., Reston. 20 flavors of homemade fudge will be available.

A "**Seven Tapas Brews & Blues Dinner**" will be held Tuesday, **Jan. 27** at Jasmine Café, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Seven international top-end beers paired with international dishes plus live musicians in the house playing blues. The Café will also offer a "sensuous dining menu" Feb. 2-15, where everything from oysters to chocolate will be available. On Feb. 14, the Café will offer a three-course prix-fixe menu, live music and treats. Call 703-471-9114.

Enjoy **free samples of "Virginia's Finest"** gourmet treats and hand made chocolates Saturday, **Feb. 7**, 12-3 p.m., at Lake Anne Florist, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Call 703-437-8686.

# Living and Learning at Madeira

Tuesday, January 27 • 7:30 p.m. • Main Living Room

We hope you will join us for an conversation with Madeira girls and their teachers about living and learning at Madeira.

Faculty and staff from athletics, residential life, academic counseling, Co-Curriculum and admissions will be available as well.

RSVP – [admission@madeira.org](mailto:admission@madeira.org)

703.556.8273



The Madeira School 8328 Georgetown Pike • McLean, Virginia 22102 • 703-556-8273 • [www.madeira.org](http://www.madeira.org)

# HOME SALES

12/01/08 ~ 12/15/08

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
1389 PARK LAKE DR	6	3	1	RESTON	\$725,000	Detached	0.62	LAKE FAIRFAX PARK ESTATES		
12011 AINTREE LN	4	2	1	RESTON	\$635,000	Detached	0.97	RESTON		
1981 LOGAN MANOR DR	3	2	2	RESTON	\$618,000	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON		
2517 SOAPSTONE DR	4	2	1	RESTON	\$600,000	Detached	0.55	RESTON		
2419 FREETOWN DR	6	3	1	RESTON	\$500,000	Detached	0.36	RESTON		
1338 PARK GARDEN LN	3	3	1	RESTON	\$498,500	Townhouse	0.05	WINDSOR PARK		
1623 GREENBRIAR CT	4	2	1	RESTON	\$470,000	Detached	0.11	RESTON		
2219 WAKEROBIN LN	3	2	1	RESTON	\$448,800	Detached	0.26	RESTON		
2503 CHARLESTOWN LN	4	3	0	RESTON	\$445,000	Detached	0.50	RESTON		
11990 MARKET ST #704	2	2	0	RESTON	\$400,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON		
1657 BENTANA WAY	3	2	2	RESTON	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.06	RESTON		
11467 WATERVIEW CL #11467	2	2	0	RESTON	\$371,000	Townhouse	0.02	RESTON		
2035 SWANS NECK WAY	3	2	1	RESTON	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON		
12001 MARKET ST #181	2	2	0	RESTON	\$355,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		MRKT ST AT TWN CNTR COND		
11990 MARKET ST #1608	1	1	0	RESTON	\$330,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON		
1938 CRESCENT PARK DR#06/209	2	2	1	RESTON	\$325,000	Townhouse		LINCOLN PARK		
1542 BROOKSHIRE CT	3	1	1	RESTON	\$305,000	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON		
11760 SUNRISE VALLEY DR#916	2	2	0	RESTON	\$304,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MERCER		
SUNRISE VALLEY DR #815	2	2	0	HERNDON	\$300,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		THE MERCER		
1851 STRATFORD PARK PL#113	2	2	0	RESTON	\$300,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		STRATFORD		
1929 BELMONT RIDGE CT	2	2	0	RESTON	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.02	RESTON		
2135 WHISPER WAY	2	1	1	RESTON	\$299,900	Townhouse	0.02	RESTON		
11760 SUNRISE VALLEY DR#615	2	2	0	RESTON	\$299,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MERCER		
11760 SUNRISE VALLEY DR#603	2	2	0	RESTON	\$283,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MERCER		
1860 STRATFORD PARK PL#312	2	2	0	RESTON	\$272,500	Garden 1-4 Floors		STRATFORD		
1731 IVY OAK SQ #9	3	2	1	RESTON	\$272,000	Townhouse		IVY OAK		
2313 EMERALD HEIGHTS CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$268,000	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON		
2207 COCQUINA DR	3	2	0	RESTON	\$260,000	Detached	0.08	RESTON		
1952 WINTERPORT CL	2	2	2	RESTON	\$259,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON		
12101 SUNDANCE CT	4	2	1	RESTON	\$247,000	Townhouse	0.05	RESTON		
2380 BRANLEIGH PARK CT	3	2	0	RESTON	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.03	HUNTERS SQUARE		
12000 MARKET ST #371	1	1	0	RESTON	\$225,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SAVOY AT RESTON TWN CNTR		
1721B ASCOT WAY #1721B	2	2	0	RESTON	\$225,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		PARCRESTON		
1664 VALENCIA WAY	3	3	1	RESTON	\$220,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON		
2216 LOFTY HEIGHTS PL	2	2	0	RESTON	\$218,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON		
11248 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ#350	3	2	0	RESTON	\$200,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		CHESTNUT GROVE		
1657 PARKCREST CIR #201	2	1	0	RESTON	\$187,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		BENTANA PARK		
1730 ASCOT WAY #D	1	1	0	RESTON	\$171,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		PARCRESTON		
11719 OLD ENGLISH DR #11719-B	2	2	1	RESTON	\$170,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		PARCRESTON		
2244 CASTLE ROCK SQ #22C	3	2	0	RESTON	\$143,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SHADOWOOD		
11244 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ#154	2	1	0	RESTON	\$135,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		CHESTNUT GROVE		
2221 LOFTY HEIGHTS PL	3	2	2	RESTON	\$128,500	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON		
2241 CASTLE ROCK SQ #12C	3	2	0	RESTON	\$122,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SHADOWOOD		
2200 CASTLE ROCK SQ #1B	2	2	0	RESTON	\$107,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SHADOWOOD		

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For more information on MRIS, visit [www.mris.com](http://www.mris.com).  
To search for a home online, visit [www.HomesDatabase.com](http://www.HomesDatabase.com).

## REAL ESTATE NOTES

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com) or 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean VA 22102. Call 703-917-6437 with questions.

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors has inaugurated Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage agent **Damon Torregrossa** into its Pioneer Club for 25 years of service as a real estate agent. Torregrossa is a sales associate with Coldwell Banker in Reston Town Center and has been with that office for his entire career.

**Kristy Lynam** has joined Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Reston Town Center as a sales associate. Lynam worked previously for Reinhart Realtors in Ann Arbor, Mich. She lives in Reston and spent much of her youth in the Greater Washington, D.C., area. She will be serving residential buyers and sellers in Reston, Herndon, Great Falls and Vienna.

**Weichert Realtors** will offer free career seminars in the following area locations. Call to confirm reservations:

**Herndon:** first and third Mondays, at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, at 1 p.m., 13001 Worldgate Drive, Herndon. Call Jennifer Cerda at 703-709-0101.  
**Reston:** Wednesdays, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at 1760 Reston Parkway, 111, Reston. Call Bev Feitshans at 703-264-0000.

**Mohamud Ali** was named the top producer and seller with a sales volume of \$3.9 million and **Suzi Gellman** was named top lister and agent with most new listings at Long & Foster's Reston office.



## CLIFTON ESTATE



- ◆ 13,650+/-SF, 8BR, 8+BA, 5 acs
- ◆ Media room, Rec room
- ◆ Indoor pool, guest house
- ◆ FX6710

**Thurs., Jan. 29th @ 11am**

### 12705 Knollbrook Dr., Clifton, VA

Retail Storefronts in Manassas & Automotive Condos in Chantilly

**Fri., Jan. 30th**

## NEW MCLEAN HOME

### Builder Must Sell



- ◆ 5700+/-SF, 5BR, 5.5BA
- ◆ Study, media room
- ◆ Rec room, 2-car garage
- ◆ FX6711

**Thurs., Jan. 29th @ 2pm**

### 6530 Chesterfield Ave., McLean, VA

**888-621-2110** **tranzon** FOX  
[www.tranzon.com](http://www.tranzon.com)



## COMMONWEALTH ACADEMY

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday, January 25th  
1-4pm  
Grades 6-12

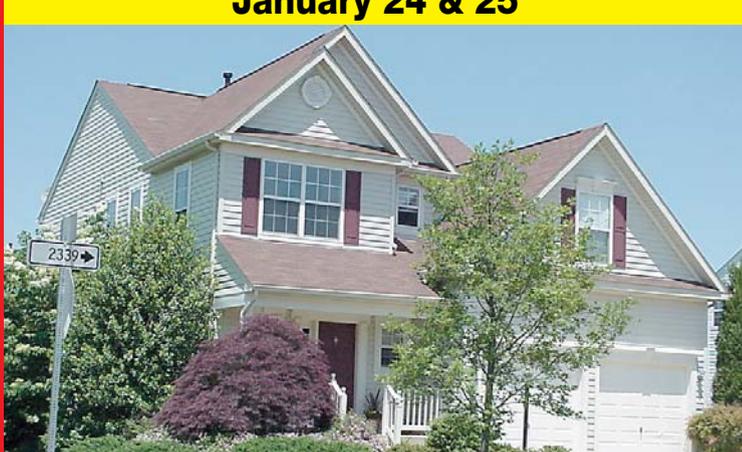


Learn more about our NAIS award-winning college prep program for students with learning differences or AD/HD.

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[CommonwealthAcademy.org](http://CommonwealthAcademy.org)

### Celebrate Change and Visit These OPENS

#### January 24 & 25



**\*Featured Home-42954 Cedar Springs Ct., Broadlands, \$549,000**  
Sun 2-4, Diane DiMillio, Long & Foster, 703-431-3591

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), click the Real Estate links on the right side.



**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.**



Herndon					
1163 Silver Beech	\$889,000	Sun 1-4	Elena Pehrkon	McEanearney	703-738-9560
11661 Preference Way	\$1,074,989	Sun 1-4	Karen Brown	Weichert	703-644-1364
Reston					
1549 Regatta Ln	\$750,000	Sun 1-4	Maria Kazanowska	Weichert	703-893-1500
Loudoun County					
Ashburn					
21489 Colonial Villag Way	\$699,900	Sun 1-4	Chris Cormack	Keller Williams	703-729-9612
43755 Crane Ct.	\$649,900	Sat & Sun 1-4	Tania Gonda	Weichert	703-444-4700
42689 Emperor Dr.	\$625,000	Sun 1-4	Andrea McSorley	Long & Foster	571-246-1127
21391 Keane Ct.	\$689,900	Sat 1-4 & Sun 12-4	Tania Gonda	Weichert	703-444-4700
42743 Mirror Pond Pl.	\$1,399,000	Sun 1-4	Trudy Severa	Long & Foster	703-623-3998
Broadlands					
*42954 Cedar Springs Ct.	\$549,000	Sun 2-4	Diane DiMillio	Long & Foster	703-431-3591
Leesburg					
20895 McIntosh Pl.	\$874,999	Sun 1-4	Shaila Millman	Weichert	703-727-3405
556 Tuliptree Sq., NE	\$282,500	Sun 1-4	Debra Saunders	Weichert	703-777-3977
Potomac Falls					
20273 Island View Ct.	\$825,000	Sun 1-4	Marianne McKittrick	RE/MAX	703-759-7000
Sterling					
21647 Cedar Dr.	\$699,900	Sat 1-4	Sandra Brill	Century 21	703-790-1850
20544 Five Oaks Ct.	\$835,000	Sun 1-4	Fatana Barak	Keller Williams	703-222-3300
47304 Middle Bluff Pl.	\$645,000	Sun 1-4	Mimi Glasgow	Weichert	703-759-6300

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call **Lauri Swift** or **Winslow Wacker**  
**703-821-5050** or E-Mail the info to [Lauri@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:Lauri@connectionnewspapers.com)  
All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

# Help Available for Foreclosures

Options discussed at Hunter Mill town hall meeting.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

County officials had printed out 50 copies of the evening's PowerPoint presentation on foreclosure prevention strategies, but they were gone by the time the presentation began. Many members of the crowd that showed up at the Reston Community Center last Thursday, Jan. 8, had to sign up to have the slides sent to them.

The turnout was no irregularity, as presenter Kathy Jones of the Department of Housing and Community Development told the audience that Reston was one area where many of the county's 2,257 foreclosures documented as of Sept. 30 were concentrated. With many subprime loans made in the area, "This is a problem we're probably going to be seeing for a couple of years to come," Jones said.

She said foreclosures were especially prevalent in areas where subprime lenders had specifically targeted black and Latino homebuyers for risky mortgages. Few minorities, though, were present in the audience that night.

**THE VALUE** of the average home in the Reston-Herndon area has dropped by \$100,000 in the last year, she said.

Also during that time, many programs — legitimate and illegitimate — have been started to offer assistance to homeowners in danger of foreclosure.

Of all possible options for dealing with a looming foreclosure, Jones said loan modifications appeared to be the most desirable.

In November, the Federal Housing Finance Agency presented its Streamlined Modification Program, which applies to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans, as well as those from federal home loan banks. Under this program, once a mortgage is 90 days late, a modification can be worked out to bring mortgage payments down to 38



**James Scruggs of Legal Services of Northern Virginia addresses the crowd at a town hall meeting on foreclosures at the Reston Community Center.**

percent of the household's gross monthly income, Jones said.

At the same time, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) unveiled a similar plan, its Loss Sharing Proposal to Promote Affordable Loan Modifications, for loans not granted by government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) like Freddie and Fannie. Once a mortgage is 60 days late, under this program, it could be renegotiated to bring payments down to 31 percent of the household income or 10 percent lower than the original payment.

Jones said mortgage modifications, unlike refinancing, do not appear on credit reports. However, she said, it remains uncertain what sorts of foreclosure assistance programs will get federal funding in the coming months. The loan modification programs are relatively new, and other programs, such as the Federal Housing Administration's Hope for Homeowners refinancing program had proved disappointing. Since Hope for Homeowners is entirely voluntary, on the part of both borrowers and lenders, it has turned out to be "problematic," Jones said. "Frankly, people have had trouble making this work."

**SHE URGED** homeowners to ignore Web sites touting "federal loan mods" and to remember that they should never have to pay upfront for loan modifications or foreclosure prevention counseling. She told them instead to talk to housing counselors approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Reston Interfaith, Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV), the Hispanic Committee of Virginia and Consumer Credit Counseling are all sources of legitimate help, Jones said. LSNV in particular, she said, had "really come to the forefront of this fight," offering pro bono work by attorneys and housing counselors. "So it's good to know there is some free service available to you."

Jones said homeowners who feel their lender led them into trouble should let professionals talk to the lender, rather than trying to work out a deal on their own.

"At this point, it's all, again, up to the lender. It's lender-specific," James Scruggs of LSNV's Foreclosure Legal Assistance Program told the crowd. "I can't modify a loan. I can talk to the lender and say, 'What are you looking for, here?'" One problem, he said, is that many loans have been bought and sold until they are in many pieces, with many lenders, so that one might be willing to make an agreement while another is not.

LSNV had attorneys and counselors on-site to advise attendees in either English or Spanish.

Jones warned that many scams had sprung up to take advantage of the foreclosure crisis. "Don't call any ad that you hear or anything on the Internet," she said.

"The one thing I want you to remember is that the scam artists read the paper. They listen to the radio," said Vee Johnson of Fairfax County Consumer Affairs, noting that whenever a new program appears, someone is ready to build a scam around it. She warned against believing signs in the me-

officers who specifically target street crimes, the county police force also has specialized units it can send out to locations where they might be needed, creating a "multi-faceted approach," Gotthardt said.

By comparison, last January saw two armed robberies in Reston, although six houses had been burglarized by an organized group in the proceeding month.

— MIKE DICICCO



CONTRIBUTED

**Noah Bolton and Samantha Freed with their dog Steve.**

## Samantha Freed and Noah Bolton

Samantha Elena Freed and Noah Benjamin Bolton were married, surrounded by loving family and friends, in Baltimore, Md., on Dec. 21, 2008. Joshua Bolton, the groom's brother, a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Gloria Freed of Columbia, Md., and the late Jerome Freed. She is also the granddaughter of the late Molly and Samuel Freed, and Helen and Alexander Huditean. The groom is the son of Janet and Vade Bolton of Reston, and the grandson of Frances and Seymour Berg of Plainview, N.Y., and the

late Juanita and Vade Bolton, Sr.

Freed earned her undergraduate degree in medical ethics from Tulane University and her juris doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore. She is an associate at the law firm of Snook and Haughey in Charlottesville, Va., where the couple currently reside with their dog, Steve.

Bolton's undergraduate degree in industrial design was earned at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. He is a 2009 candidate for the master's in architecture at the University of Virginia where he is a Kenan Fellow.

## King Remembered at South Lakes

FROM PAGE 4

Becker said in her political science classroom the following Friday, although she and her classmates, all seniors, agreed that they were often reminded of the uncertainty of the future they would inherit.

"I think there's more of that kind of shift in focus among students, to be more outwardly aware," Sophia Armstrong said. She said the recent spike in gas prices and the current economic crisis drove home the point that there were "a lot of issues we need to be made aware of as we continue into the 21st century."

"It's a warning to our generation that if we don't step up to the plate it's not going to fix itself," Danny Garay said.

**THE STUDENTS** also said they had appreciated Ford's congenial demeanor, at lunch and in his speech.

Aijazi said he hadn't seemed to talk at students or talk down to

them.

"I just liked how personable he was. He shook everyone's hand," Anne Keady said.

Teacher Wynndolynn Thompson noted that Ford had sat with a student who was about to attend his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, and talked with the boy about what to expect at the school and how he might want to choose his dorm.

On the way to a car after the speech, Ford said he often spoke to students, particularly around this time of year, when Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month are being celebrated. Just as he enjoyed being challenged when he was young, he said, he wanted to be part of the chorus of parents, educators and others who pushed these students to push themselves.

Keady said she wished people outside the D.C. area, who might be less tuned-in to politics, could have heard the speech. And, although she won't be at the school next year, she said she hoped Ford would return again. "I would want my brother to hear it."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Robberies Investigated

FROM PAGE 5

relatively small man, either black or of "medium complexion," ranging between 5 feet 2 inches and 5 feet 7 inches in height and having a slim build.

While each police district has

# CALENDAR

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

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

**Stress-Free Life.** Kirk Martin is hosting a workshop entitled "10 Keys to a Stress-Free School and Home Life" at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston, 7-9 p.m. Celebrate Calm specializes in working with intense children, including families affected by Anxiety, Sensory issues, Aspergers, Autism, ODD, OCD and AD/HD.

**Speech and Music Contest.** The Dulles International Airport Rotary is holding a Speech and Music Contest on at the Dulles Hilton, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, 5-9 p.m. The speech contest theme, "Make Dreams Real," is open to students in grades 9-12 and the Music Contest is open to students in grades 11 and 12. Any high school student in Loudoun and Fairfax County can apply. The deadline for applications is January 21, 2009. For information and applications, contact Vicky Robertson at 703-867-0271 or [vrobertson@cbmove.com](mailto:vrobertson@cbmove.com).

## THURSDAY/JAN. 22

**Broadway Cabaret.** As many as 50 Herndon High students will take the stage in the school's 2009 Broadway Cabaret, "A Broadway Song and Dance," at 7:30 p.m. in the Herndon High auditorium. Purchase tickets at [www.HerndonChoir.com](http://www.HerndonChoir.com) or call Lori Peterson at 703-421-9325.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 24

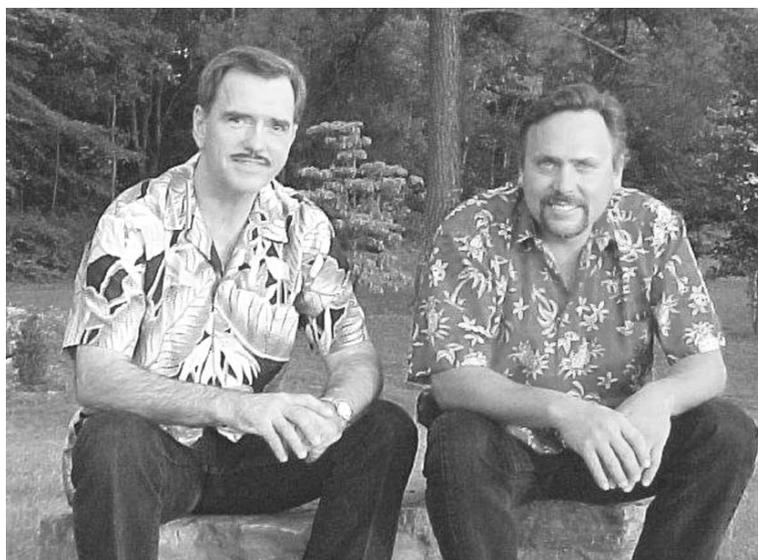
**Chili Cook-Off.** First Baptist Church of Herndon, 681 Elden St., will hold its annual chili cook-off from 6-9 p.m. Being your favorite chili recipe or be a taster. Visit [www.fbcherndon.com](http://www.fbcherndon.com) or call 703-437-3620.

## THEATER

**"Shining City,"** Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **Jan. 23-Feb. 14.** See [eldenstreetplayers.org](http://eldenstreetplayers.org).

**"Brooklyn Boy,"** Reston Community Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 8 p.m., Friday, **Jan. 23**; 8 p.m. Saturday, **Jan. 24** (sign interpretation); 8 p.m., Friday, **Jan. 30**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **Jan. 31**; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **Feb. 1**; 8 p.m., Friday, **Feb. 6**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **Feb. 7.** See [www.restonplayers.org](http://www.restonplayers.org).

**"Hansel & Gretel,"** Theater for Young Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **Jan. 31-**



**Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Klein are performing their bluegrass music Saturday, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Tickets: \$15; call 703-435-8377.**

**Broadway Cabaret.** As many as 50 Herndon High students will take the stage in the school's 2009 Broadway Cabaret, "A Broadway Song and Dance," at 7:30 p.m. in the Herndon High auditorium. Purchase tickets at [www.HerndonChoir.com](http://www.HerndonChoir.com) or call Lori Peterson at 703-421-9325.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 25

**Raise the Rafters.** Raise the Rafters, a free jazz music series, opens with a show from Project Natalie at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 W. Ox Road, Herndon, 2-3 p.m. Each performance also offers alternative activities such as Dominoes, Backgammon, Monopoly or Parcheesi. Call 703-437-9101 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp/).

**Winter Walk.** Look at the altered winter landscape and visualize how native plants will bring new life to the area and consider how the area will look as the restored stream valley matures and recovers from construction work at Reston Community Center in Hunter's Woods, 2310 Colt's Neck Road,

Reston at 1:30 p.m. Bring sturdy walking shoes with waterproof soles. Call 703-742-9148.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

**Senior Movie Day.** "PS I Love You" will be shown in the Multiplex Cinema at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., at 10 a.m. Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free for those 55+. Call 703-435-6530.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 30

**Winter Sky.** The Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston, is hosting a winter sky program, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Learn about the stars and folklore associated with these celestial objects. Meet at Quartermaster Soccer Field located at the intersection of Glade Drive and Quartermaster Lane. Cost: \$5/person for Reston Association members; \$8/non-members. Reservations required; call 703-435-6530 or e-mail [naturalist@reston.org](mailto:naturalist@reston.org).

**Feb. 15.** See [eldenstreetplayers.org](http://eldenstreetplayers.org).

**"The Full Monty,"** Reston Community Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 8 p.m., Friday, **March 6**; 8 p.m. Saturday, **March 7**; 8 p.m., Friday, **March 13**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 14** (sign interpretation); 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **March 15**; 8 p.m., Friday, **March 20**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 21**; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **March 22**; 8 p.m., Friday, **March 27**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 28.** See [www.restonplayers.org](http://www.restonplayers.org).

**"Falsettos,"** Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **March**

**13-April 4.** See [eldenstreetplayers.org](http://eldenstreetplayers.org).

**"Something Different 2009,"** Theater for Young Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **March 21-April 5.** See [eldenstreetplayers.org](http://eldenstreetplayers.org).

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# SPORTS

## Seahawks Hold Off Improved Stone Bridge Team

Williams nets 31 points for South Lakes; Bulldogs' Brown collects 14 off the bench.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Two backcourt players in particular shined in last Friday night's Liberty District high-school boys basketball game between South Lakes and host team Stone Bridge.

South Lakes senior point guard Travis Williams shined brightest by scoring a game-high 31 points in leading the Seahawks to an exciting 76-72 win in Ashburn. But his backcourt counterpart, Stone Bridge sophomore Nik Brown, also sparkled with a 14-point effort off the bench for the Bulldogs.

Williams, one of the top players in the Northern Region, scored 11 of his points in the third quarter when South Lakes erased a seven-point deficit to ultimately gain a 56-53 advantage at the end of the stanza. Later in the game, after Stone Bridge closed a 69-59 fourth-quarter deficit to one point at 73-72 on a clutch, three-point shot by senior Nate Ingersoll in the final minute, Williams responded by hitting three free throws over the final 32 seconds to help his team hold on for the win.

Williams missed the first of two free throws with 32 seconds left, but converted the second foul shot and later drained two more with 19 seconds left.

"I owed my teammates after missing the first one," Williams said with a laugh in regards to the missed foul shot.

"At halftime we were down, but we came out hard in the third quarter on offense and we played team-oriented defense," said Williams, summing up his team's stellar play in the third quarter.

**PERHAPS THE** game's most important swing of momentum came late in that third quarter when Williams, with his team trailing 47-46, nailed consecutive long-rang threes — the first coming from near the top of the key with two minutes, 18 seconds remaining in the quarter and the latter coming from the left wing with 1:50 showing — to give the Seahawks a 52-47 lead. South Lakes never lost the lead after that.

"Travis hit some huge threes," said South Lakes coach Darryl Branch.

For the game, Williams knocked down five treys. Stone Bridge coach Sonny Green could only marvel at the 5-foot 10-inch Williams' play.

"We had no answer for Travis Williams," Green said. "He plays with a lot of poise and confidence and he's a competitor."

Meanwhile, Stone Bridge's Brown was impressive in his own right. The 6-foot, 10th-grader has normally started for the Bulldogs, but recently missed two games with a forearm injury. Coach Green elected to bring the talented Brown off the bench against South Lakes. He responded with a solid outing and was on the floor in the final minutes of the down-to-the-wire game, scoring five points over the final 2:53 to help the Bulldogs down the stretch.

**"We had no answer for Travis Williams. He plays with a lot of poise and confidence, and he's a competitor."**

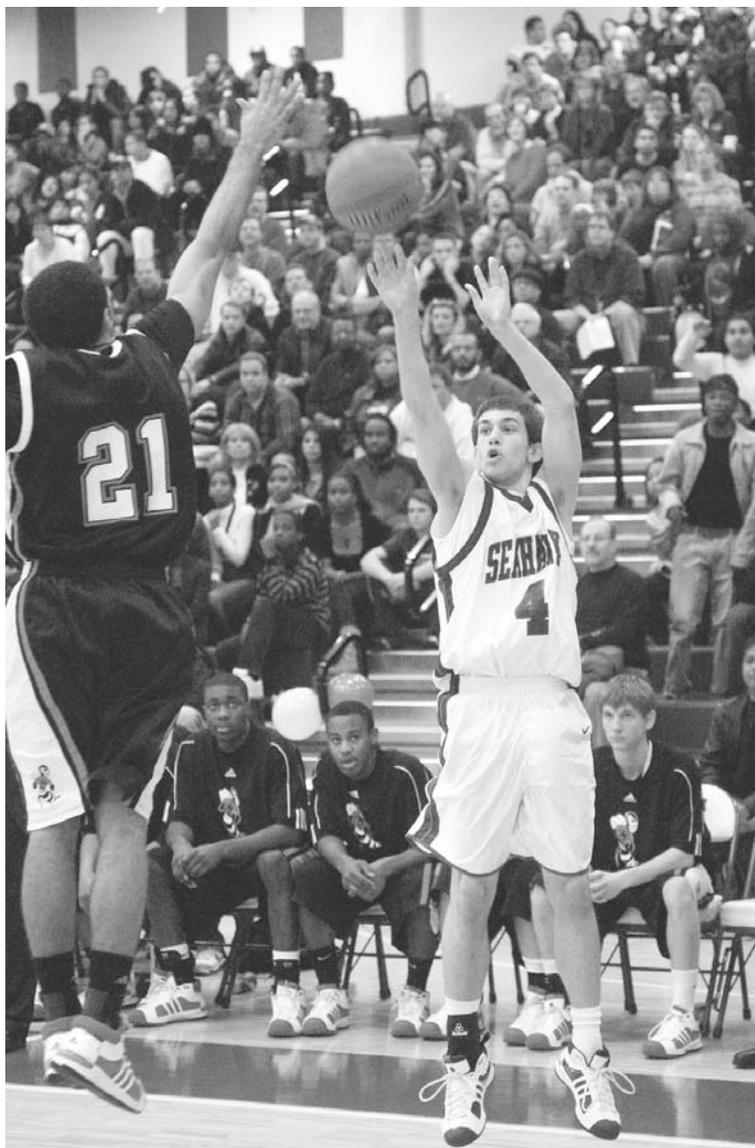
— Sonny Green, Stone Bridge boys basketball coach

Brown is impressive with his on-court composure, ball-handling skills and different ways of scoring. He knocked down a trey late in the first quarter to give his team a 16-12 lead. Later, as the first half was coming to a close, he drove hard down the lane through traffic and converted a tough chance layup to give the home team a 36-31 lead as the first-half buzzer sounded. He hardly looked like a sophomore out there.

"He's tough," said Branch, the South Lakes coach. "He's going to be a player in this district."

"He plays the game well," Green said. "He gets the ball up and down the court quickly, something we've been trying to do this year."

**BOTH SOUTH LAKES** and Stone Bridge have had several players make positive contributions this season. That was certainly the case on Friday. While Williams and Brown were standout players in



South Lakes senior shooting guard Steve Kerr nailed a last-second jumper to defeat Langley recently.

the contest, others made their marks on the game as well.

For South Lakes (9-5 overall, 6-1 in the district), senior frontcourt player Jamal Hulum put together a game's worth of highlight moves near and around the basket. The 6-5 forward scored three times on rebound follow-up baskets. With 3:25 left in the game, his strong layup basket, off an assist from Williams, drew a foul and resulted in a three-point play that gave the Seahawks a 69-59 lead.

"He can be a real force in there," Williams said of his teammate. "He's long-armed, can jump and gets to the board."

Branch said Williams has drawn most of the attention from opponents this season. But Hulum has been an impact player at times as well.

"Jamal was tremendous," said Branch, following his outing against Stone Bridge. "He was really tough on the boards tonight. Every time I looked up, he was snagging a rebound. People key on Travis a lot and I understand why, but we have had other kids who stepped up."

Senior shooting guard Steve Kerr and junior forward Ramin Shadeedian both contributed eight points for South Lakes in the win over the Bulldogs. Kerr nailed a buzzer-beating, game-winner in South Lakes' recent 61-58 district overtime win over Langley on Jan. 6. And junior guard Esua Spicer, celebrating his birthday, brought energy to the lineup on Friday. Spicer, usually a backup, started for the Seahawks and brought down three offensive rebounds in a strong, aggressive showing.

**MEANWHILE**, Stone Bridge (6-8, 4-3), which has been highly competitive in district play this



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes' Jamal Hulum (12) had a huge game off the offensive boards in his team's win at Stone Bridge last Friday night.

season, received solid games from an assortment of players against the Seahawks. Four Bulldogs — Brown, Ingersoll (18 points), point guard Richie Berry (16) and senior forward Brian Slay (13 points, 9 rebounds) — scored in double figures. Slay was terrific off the bench. On one occasion in the fourth quarter, he gathered consecutive offensive rebounds before scoring off the second one as he was fouled. His ensuing free throw pulled the Bulldogs within 60-56.

Ingersoll played outstanding. The 6-2 forward's three-pointer from the left wing with under a minute to play got Stone Bridge within 73-72 and evoked a huge roar from the partisan home crowd.

Sophomore guard Kyle Gouveia gave the Bulldogs solid minutes off the bench with four points and steady all-around play.

Green said his team played a good game with the exception of the third quarter. But the Bulldogs nearly came back to win in the fourth quarter.

"The kids showed some resolve and had some opportunities down the stretch," he said. "We have some talent and are working on meshing together as a team. I'm proud of the kids."

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The **South Lakes High Athletic Booster Club** is holding a fun-filled night of basketball when the Harlem Wizards will play the coaches of the South Lakes boys and girls teams. The event will take place Saturday, Jan. 31, at

South Lakes High School's Wendell G. Byrd Gymnasium. Advance tickets cost \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. Tickets at the door will cost \$15 for students and \$20 for adults. Purchase tickets at [SeahwkBoostrers.com](http://SeahwkBoostrers.com).

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## Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Due to the debilitating emotional effect of my mother's two-month decline into pain-ending death on Dec. 6, 2008, combined with the official announcement made by my wife, Dina's, long time employer, Tivoli's, in Rosslyn (nearly 25 years employed) that they were closing their restaurant and lounge on Dec. 20 after 27 years (thus unemploying Dina), neither Dina or I were in the mood this past Christmas to do unto others (heck, we were barely able to do unto ourselves). In fact, the first — and only — time we went shopping was Sat. night, Dec. 27th — after Christmas. And that trip was not to bargain hunt, it was to buy a 2009 golden retriever calendar for Bailey (our second golden) and of course for ourselves, so that we could hang it in its usual place of honor in our kitchen (time marches on, however slowly).

And so for us, 2008 was the year that Christmas came and went, and never really was (Thanksgiving wasn't a whole lot better, either). Oh, we saw it on the calendar and heard about it as usual and Dina even decorated the lounge at Tivoli, but in a year in which two extremely significant things were taken from us, we just couldn't muster the spirit to give. Perhaps, had we given, it would have lightened our load somehow and balanced our respective burdens. But finding the energy and the intestinal fortitude to fight the fight was simply too much for us. I just figured that it was a losing battle, emotionally, and in a way, almost disrespectful to my mother's memory and to the importance of Tivoli's in Dina's life that we go on about our regular, albeit seasonally-motivated business.

New Year's Eve (and the actual new year on the calendar) didn't come soon enough for us. 2008 is over, thank God! Whether we will both be able to return to a reasonably normal and familiar routine, I can't know for sure. Dina needs to find a new job and my brother and I need to settle my mother's estate.

It's hard to imagine, and even harder to say, but perhaps the change will do us both some good. Stranger things have happened, I suppose.

On the face of it, "losing" your mother and in effect becoming an "orphan," for me, and Dina being out of work for the first time in more than 30 years (although for Dina, the work at Tivoli's was the least of it; the most of it was the friendships and social activities that it spawned), hardly seem like the kind of occurrences to jump-start your life in a new and positive direction, however. Maybe the arrival of a new year will help to spin us both forward a little bit. Who knows? Certainly not me.

Hopefully, 2009 will be a year worth remembering, not one, like 2008, that on two very key levels we'd both like to forget. Eventually I'm sure, we'll get to the point where remembering 2008 will bring smiles and fond memories. At present, it's still a bit early for either one of us to feel those kinds of feelings. We're still not quite adjusted to our new lives and still hurting and still mourning. Perhaps hanging that 2009 golden retriever calendar on our kitchen wall, a tradition going back nearly 30 years (Brandy, our last golden lived to age 15; Bailey, our current golden is 13 1/2) will begin our emotional rescue. Pets are good that way. They help with the healing.

*Kenney Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.*

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## LETTERS

### Supporting Stream Restoration

FROM PAGE 8

ing cap and that we also have a lot of aging facilities that also need repair. In the end we could only get \$30,000 per year to fund the restoration. Today with the stream bank system we have funding to do a "no compromises" restoration of our streams at no cost to the residents. Not only that, but we are also getting 3 million dollars worth of bridges to replace ones that were getting near the end of their service life and getting additional funding for the Nature House that 74 percent of the residents who voted in the referendum supported.

Over the last few weeks RA and WSSI have presented the detailed plans for this restoration to the public as well as walking the project area. Of the 4,231 tagged trees in this area only about 5.6 percent will be removed as part of this work. The plans are

well thought out and I believe will be an asset to the community and the environment. You can see some parts of the plan as well as details on the trees at the WSSI Reston Web site: <http://reston.wetlandstudies.com/>.

There are those that suggest we stop the restoration and wait for Snakeden to complete the 10-year monitoring and maintenance period. If Snakeden at that time is a healthy stream in a forest of trees 15-feet tall could we change our minds? Would any business want to take the risk of doing all the engineering and planning to get stopped again by a vocal group of residents?

Again I urge you to attend the DRB meeting on the 27th, at 7 p.m., 1930 Isaac Newton Square and show your support for the project.

**Ken Andrews**  
Reston

### Leadership For Change

To the Editor:

Out of control spending and misplaced priorities have resulted in a \$650 million budget shortfall. At the same time, homeowner taxes have doubled during the past seven years, with little to show for the increases.

Pat Herryty grew up in Fairfax County and graduated from West Springfield High School and Virginia Tech. With 20 years of experiences as a CFO, he has a proven track record of putting troubled companies on the right track and creating jobs and opportunities.

We need a proven leader like Pat Herryty who will prioritize our budget by identifying and removing areas of wasteful spending rather than the current approach — indiscriminately attacking the budget with a

meat cleaver, lopping off a flat percentage across the board without regard for the effect.

Building a budget based on sound priorities will make the government more efficient and ensure necessary services and programs remain intact and allow agencies to focus on concerns that affect the county and our neighborhoods.

Now is the time for Fairfax County citizens to act and change the direction of our government. Electing Pat Herryty chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on Tuesday, Feb. 3, will bring much needed leadership, vision and fiscal sanity to Fairfax County.

**AJ Smith**  
Fairfax

### Change Antiquated Grading System

To Members of the Fairfax County School Board:

I witnessed via television the meeting last week where citizens spoke on behalf of "Fair Grade." I am a taxpayer whose children are now in the business world. Two of the four are graduates of Fairfax County schools. Now my grandchildren are in the same school system.

I have yet to understand why our students are treated unfairly in the current grading system. At the time our children attended Fairfax County schools maybe there were universities who knew about Fairfax County schools. Not so anymore. Colleges are interested in the test scores and GPA. Fairfax County grades are not considered any differently than those coming from Union County, Ill. How long must our students suffer before you get this bit of rocket science. Can any one of you on the board give a justifiable reason why this antiquated system is still being used? Other than Mr. Gibson's appeal to tradition.

Now to a slightly different subject. Have you ever watched yourselves on television? At this meeting you appeared like kings looking down on their subjects — those parents and children dressed in white. Was

it really necessary to go on and on complimenting each other on your outstanding service while hundreds of parents and children were held as a captive audience? I understand the necessity of electing the chairman and co-chairman, but the endless kudos were embarrassing. Your attitudes seemed to suggest the people in the audience were interfering with your important agenda. Am I wrong? Don't you work for the citizens of the county?

**Lois Scholz**  
Vienna

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

Letters to the Editor  
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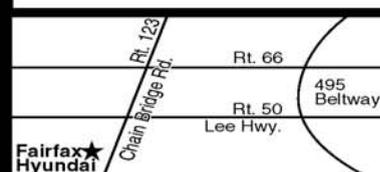
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