

## RA Headquarters: A Matter Of Trust

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## Metro Stop Design Approved

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# Playing 'Heart Strings'

COMMUNITY, PAGE 8

Al Torzilli sings  
"Come a Little Bit  
Closer" during the  
Reston Chorale  
performance, Heart  
Strings, on Feb. 21,  
at the Reston  
Community Center.

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

# Bringing Hope to Children with Cancer

Organization keeps patients connected with their friends and classes.

Six years ago, Vienna resident Len Forkas' son was diagnosed with leukemia. He would be out of school and in treatment for a while. Forkas asked his friend, a professor at George Mason University to research what his son needed most during this time and the answer came back: "What your son needs the most are his friends."

Forkas soon learned that his son's school had received grants for Web cameras. Thus was born the idea that led to Forkas' Reston-based nonprofit organization, HopeCam, he told the Great Falls Optimists Club earlier this month.

He established a connection with his son's classroom and classmates were able to sign up for sessions to talk with their friend. "They were able to kind of watch him losing his hair and then growing his hair back," Forkas said, recalling how early conversations focusing on his son's illness eventually gave way to chats about Pokemon and other frivolity. When his son returned to school, he felt



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Len Forkas tells the Great Falls Optimists Club about HopeCam.

like he hadn't left, Forkas said.

That year, Forkas set out to raise money to do for other children what he had been able to do for his son. As a fund-raiser, he ran the JFK 50-mile ultra marathon in Maryland. "I figured, the more suffering and pain I could endure, the more money people would give," he said. He raised about \$10,000. Last year, he found a donor willing to match what he

raised and ended up bringing in a total of \$70,000.

However, he said, some 200 children in the region are diagnosed with cancer each year and HopeCam has only been reaching about 30 to 40 them. "The only reason we're not bigger is because we don't have the resources," Forkas said. Hospitals refer patients to the organization and no one has had to be turned away so far.

In addition to supplying equipment, the organization "cuts through red tape at the schools," he said. And, most importantly, it provides hope, sending the message that the child will be going back to school soon.

He showed the Optimists slides of children who had kept in touch with their friends and classmates via HopeCam — one whose empty chair worried the students in her kindergarten class, another who was introduced to his new class through his Web camera.

Jen Bond, HopeCam's director, recalled a boy who got a visit from Washington Redskins quarterback Jason Campbell after returning home from a bone marrow transplant and was able to show off to his class. "It was by far the most rewarding experience I've had with HopeCam," she said.

This year, Forkas said, he wants to help 200 children. "And we don't want to say no to any of these children."

— MIKE DICICCO

Learn about post-secondary education options at a workshop entitled "What Am I Going To Do After High School?" Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7-8:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Free. E-mail Natashi.Anthony@fcps.edu or call 571-423-4150 to register.

Members of the **Armstrong Elementary** broadcast team recently met Christine Sullivan, author of the book "44 Days Out of Kandahar" at Dulles International Airport along with three dogs from Iraq in conjunction with Operation Bagdad Pups. The students learned about her trip to a war zone to bring animals, adopted overseas by U.S. soldiers, home to the United States.

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 from **Carson, Herndon and Hughes Middle Schools and Herndon and South Lakes High Schools** won regional awards in the Scholastic Art Awards competition sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Their work will be on display at Northern Virginia Community College's Ernst Community Cultural Center in Annandale through Feb. 26.

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# NEWS



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Reston Association president Robin Smyers fields questions from cluster representatives at Monday night's meeting.

## A Matter of Trust

Cluster representatives largely supportive but frustrated by scanty details about headquarters referendum.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

Lynn Millar said she supported the idea of purchasing a new headquarters for the Reston Association, but she wasn't sure how she was going to sell her neighbors in the Old Brookville Cluster on the idea that the association should be authorized to spend up to \$15 million on the property when she didn't know many of the details that went into that figure.

"To ask us as community leaders to — hopefully — get the 'yes' vote out, it's stretching things right now," she said.

Monday night, as RA staff and president Robin Smyers met with cluster representatives to discuss the referendum, ballots were about to be mailed out the next morning.

In 2005, association members approved the spending of \$5 million on a new headquarters, but Smyers said various efforts to secure a new home had not come to fruition. Now, she said, time was short. With a Metrorail stop planned to be built nearby, the more than 40-year-old building in which the current headquarters is leased is likely to be torn down. "We've been advised by our landlords that it isn't worth as much as

the land it sits on," Smyers said.

The lease is up in August of 2010, but a clause in the contract would allow the landlord to give the association its 30-day notice in March of next year. If the ballot is not approved, the RA will find space to lease and has already been exploring that option as well, Smyers said.

**SHE SAID** the previous referendum had not included the cost of renovating the new space, and the association had not worked with independent professionals, as it has this time, to determine its needs and likely costs. One development that came from that partnership was a determination that the association needed about 35,000 square feet of space for its current workings and to accommodate future growth — 15,000 square feet more than it has now or planned for four years ago. The space increase was one figure the cluster representatives wanted clarified.

David Connell of the Machanns Cluster said he thought much less space would be necessary, assuming that it's used more efficiently than in the current headquarters. He and others wanted to see how the association had arrived at 35,000 square feet, and director of administrative and member

"If you want us to answer questions, what we're going to be asked is, 'What's it going to cost me?'"

— Mike Brown, Old Chatham Cluster

services Cate Fulkerson promised to get the space study online as soon as possible.

With ballots going out the next day, Connell said it was problematic that he was supposed to inform his neighbors on a subject about which he lacked that sort of information, although he added that his remarks were "not an attack."

Smyers said the space was in part to provide community meeting space and put a stop to overflow crowds at RA and Design Review Board meetings. "And we really do need to and should provide more space to deliver information services and let staff have a better home."

"If you want us to answer questions, what we're going to be asked is, 'What's it going to cost me?'" said Mike Brown of Old Chatham Cluster.

Smyers said the cost was estimated to come out to about \$7.50 worth of the annual RA assessment, although she said it was yet to be determined how the purchase would be funded and whether reserve funds would be tapped. An existing cap would only allow about that much to be added to the annual assessment. She said the estimate was about the same for the cost of a lease.

SEE HEADQUARTERS, PAGE 7

## Metro Stop Design Approved

Critics worry plans are not "pedestrian friendly."

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the design and plans for the Wiehle Avenue Metrorail station anticipated in Reston and two of the four new Metrorail stations set for Tysons Corner at its Feb. 23 meeting.

The stations, which are supposed open in 2013, would be part of the Metrorail's new "silver line," an extension of the mass transit system from the West Falls Church stop to Dulles International Airport and beyond.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) voted against the approval of the two Tysons Corner stations. Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) was not present for any of the three station votes.

It is expected that the supervisors will easily approve the final two stations for the first phase of the project, which terminates at the Wiehle Avenue station.

"We have been in discussion about these for years. I think we have vetted a great deal about what the designs should be," said Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who has at least two stations in her district.

**UNTIL** "phase II" of the Dulles Metrorail project is completed, the new "silver line" will terminate at the Wiehle Avenue station, which is supposed to be located in the median of the Dulles Airport Access Highway and Dulles Toll Road, just west of the thoroughfare's intersection with Wiehle Avenue.

The station site has been designed with a 2,300-car parking garage that rises 85 feet into the air. Architects have also incorporated bus depots into both of the station's entrances, in anticipation of shuttle service from both Loudoun County and the Herndon/Monroe Park & Ride parking lots. There will also be 150 spaces for bicycles.

**THOUGH** the supervisors approved this plan for the Wiehle Avenue site and the Planning Commission backed it, both bodies said the county is still in negotiations to get more transit-friendly development at the station location.

"We are negotiating a ground lease with a private developer and we expect to wrap up those negotiations in early March," said Richard Stevens, the county coordinator for the Dulles Rail project. Construction on the Wiehle Avenue garage does not have to start until 2011, given the county plenty of time to put another plan in place, he said.

"We have moving forward with plan B in case plan A doesn't work," said Hunter Mill

SEE PLAN B, PAGE 7

## THE COUNTY LINE

# Tax Rate Hike To Fund Reduced Budget

**Ninety-five percent of residential properties decline in value; proposed budget raises average tax bill by \$14.**

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Executive Anthony Griffin proposed holding most residents' real estate taxes relatively steady in 2010 even though Fairfax experienced the single largest drop in home property values ever recorded this year and most citizens' real estate taxes would have gone down significantly otherwise.

Griffin has suggested the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors raise the real estate property tax rate 13.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, potentially the largest real estate tax rate increase in the county's history. The measure would help close the approximately \$650 million gap in Fairfax's fiscal year 2010 budget, which goes into effect July 1.

It compensates for the sharp decline in the county's real estate values and, therefore, real estate tax collection. Since last year, residential property values have fallen 12.55 percent in value and commercial properties have fallen 4.51 percent in value.

If the supervisors adopted Griffin's recommendation, the real estate tax rate will go from 92 cents per \$100 of assessed value to \$1.05.5 per \$100 of assessed value. The average homeowners tax bill would increase approximately \$14 from last year.

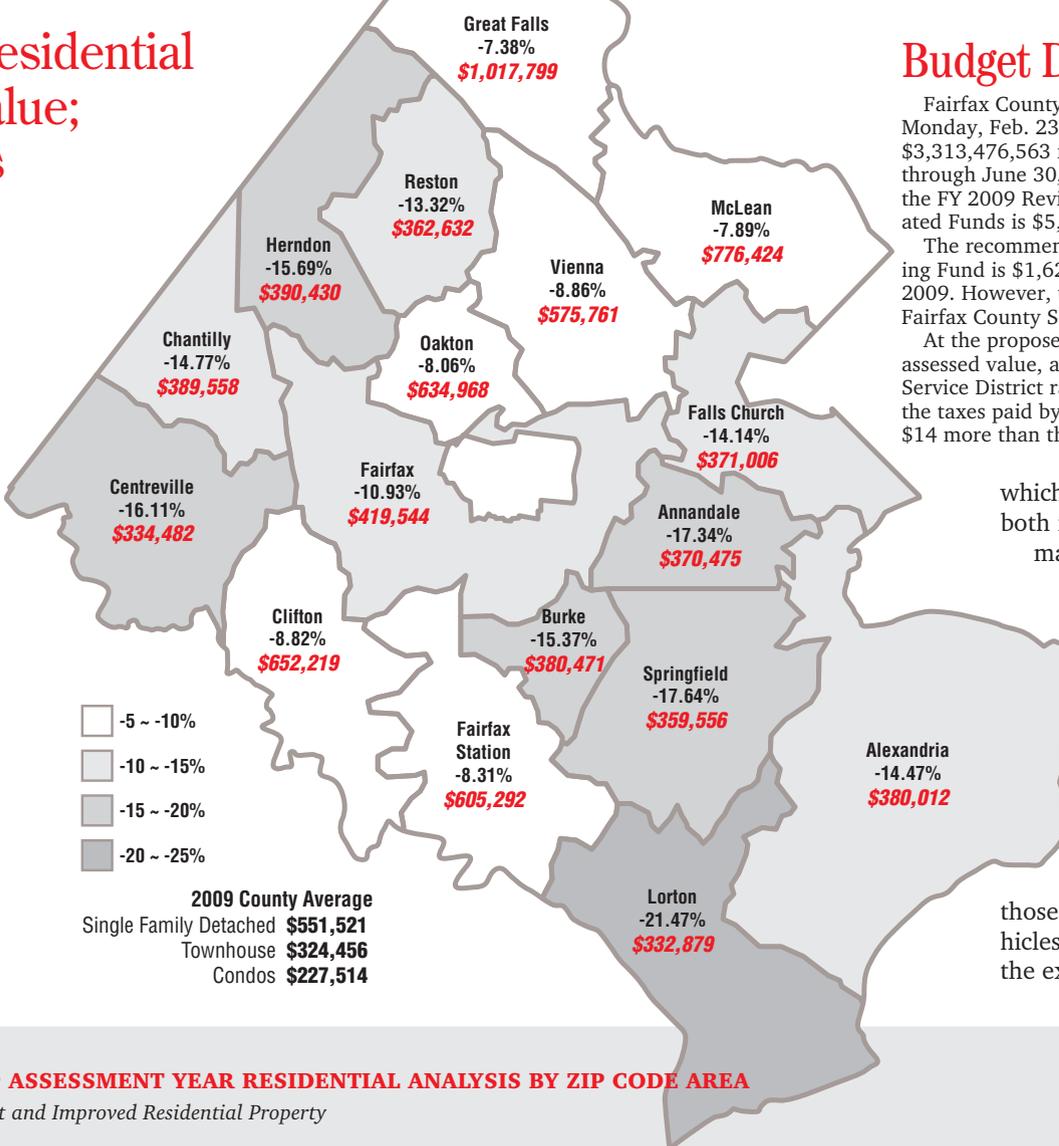
Griffin has also proposed cutting county jobs, freezing county employee pay and reducing some services. Residents would also see an increase in some user fees, he said.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY** Public Schools has been spared more than other county agencies in Griffin's proposal.

His recommendations call for the school system to receive the same amount of operational funds as last year and not to sustain the cuts that most other county departments will have. Griffin would reduce the school system's annual capital budget slightly next year, from \$155 million to \$140 million.

Even with a flat operational funding transfer from the county, school officials have indicated that they would still have to make drastic changes and cuts to their programs. Earlier in the year, the Fairfax County School Board had been prepared to ask for

**"I didn't see any real structural changes in how we do business."  
— Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield)**



**2009 ASSESSMENT YEAR RESIDENTIAL ANALYSIS BY ZIP CODE AREA**  
Vacant and Improved Residential Property

ZIP CODE AREA	2008 MEAN	2009 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
ALEXANDRIA	\$444,287	\$380,012	-14.47
ANNANDALE	\$448,178	\$370,475	-17.34
BURKE	\$449,573	\$380,471	-15.37
CENTREVILLE	\$398,728	\$334,482	-16.11
CHANTILLY	\$457,053	\$389,558	-14.77
CLIFTON	\$715,300	\$652,219	-8.82
FAIRFAX	\$471,010	\$419,544	-10.93
FAIRFAX STATION	\$660,179	\$605,292	-8.31
FALLS CHURCH	\$432,102	\$371,006	-14.14
GREAT FALLS	\$1,098,936	\$1,017,799	-7.38
HERNDON	\$463,073	\$390,430	-15.69
LORTON	\$423,871	\$332,879	-21.47
MCLEAN	\$842,924	\$776,424	-7.89
OAKTON	\$690,635	\$634,968	-8.06
RESTON	\$418,371	\$362,632	-13.32
SPRINGFIELD	\$436,583	\$359,556	-17.64
VIENNA	\$631,767	\$575,761	-8.86

a three percent increase in its funding transfer from the county, a proposal that would already have required program reductions because of the school system's rising costs in areas like enrollment.

The schools chief operating officer Dean Tistadt had also said any reduction to the school system's capital budget would be "devastating" since the current level of funding falls short of what is needed to repair all the schools facilities.

On the whole, Griffin has asked the supervisors to increase Fairfax's general fund, which would be approximately \$3.3 billion, by .4 percent. But due to rising costs, the

county would have had to grow its general fund by four to five percent just to keep all the county and schools' staffing and program levels the same as this year, he said.

**SEVERAL SUPERVISORS** were concerned about the impact Griffin's proposed budget would have on county staff. If adopted, county employees would be asked to forfeit their the cost-of-living-adjustment they usually receive, any scheduled pay raise they were expecting, and "performance pay," for some salaried county employees.

Griffin also recommended eliminating 524 full-time "merit" county positions, which he said could result in approximately 200 county employees losing their jobs. Approximately 300 "limited term" positions —

## Budget Down, Tax Rate Up

Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin proposed Monday, Feb. 23, a General Fund budget of \$3,313,476,563 for Fiscal Year 2010 — July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010 — a decrease of 3.7 percent from the FY 2009 Revised Budget Plan. The total of all Appropriated Funds is \$5,839,237,244.

The recommended transfer to the Public School Operating Fund is \$1,626,600,722 — the same level as Fiscal Year 2009. However, the transfer request approved by the Fairfax County School Board on Feb. 5, is \$1,683,372,525.

At the proposed real estate tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value, along with the newly proposed Stormwater Service District rate of \$0.015 per \$100 of assessed value, the taxes paid by the average residential taxpayer will be \$14 more than the FY 2009 tax bill.

which are typically lower paying but include both full time and part time employees — may also be cut.

Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) asked Griffin to try and be more flexible when dealing with employees. She said he may want to ask for volunteers who would be more comfortable working shorter hours or retiring early before he starts to eliminate jobs.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) wondered whether the county could increase some fees, like those for people who park commercial vehicles on residential streets illegally, and use the extra income to keep some of the positions being eliminated, particularly in the public safety department. "We should be charging the maximum [fine allowed under state law] for those violations if it spares jobs," said McKay.

A few supervisors were also angry to see the fee to participate in the county's recreational sports teams increase from \$5.50 to approximately \$13. "At a time when you are dealing with gang violence and gang prevention, it is self-defeating to increase a tax on kids participating in sports by 200 percent," said Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully).

Griffin said all the revenue generated by the fee increase would go to fully fund those programs and to avoid cuts in youth sports.

But both Frey and Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) were upset that Griffin had set aside 1.5 cents of the tax rate for storm water management. Last year, only one cent of the tax rate had been used for storm water management.

"At a time when we are cutting everything, why are we increasing storm water management by 5 percent?" said Frey.

Herrity and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) said they would also have liked to see more structural changes and consolidations undertaken in the county government. During his budget presentation, Griffin said he had only overhauled one county agency, the planning department and planning commission staff.

"I didn't see any real structural changes in how we do business. ... We did not find any real structural savings," said Herrity.

# OPINION

## Stimulating the Virginia Economy

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

**A**s I left my office in the General Assembly Building one evening last week at about 7 p.m. I was blocked from crossing the street to get to my car by a parade of elephants, horses and other Barnum and Bailey Circus entertainers. They were making their way to the Richmond Coliseum for their annual show. Later in the week I was able to go to the circus with my daughter Helen and grandchildren Emma and Conrad. This year's version of the Greatest Show on Earth featured a variety of spectacular magic tricks throughout the show including a disappearing elephant. A couple of days later the circus had packed up and moved off to Norfolk and then to Fairfax.

Visitors to the General Assembly sometimes express what they see as being like a circus. Certainly there are a lot of bright lights, skilled people and more than a few tricks. In early January 140 legislators descend on Richmond and after 46 days of a flurry of activities that will end this week return to their homes. The products of the legislative session as meager as they may be will be examined in future columns.

The Conference Committee working on the budget will make its report in the next couple of days. The only good news in an otherwise bleak picture is that federal stimulus monies will help offset some of the losses of state revenue. Virginia revenues that have been declining for a year fell sharply in December with unprecedented reductions in general fund



RICHMOND REPORT

revenues occurring since mid-January. Fortunately, passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides the state with about one billion dollars that can offset the immediate loss of \$800 million. Of course, stimulus monies are likely to be one-time funds. If the economy does not start to recover we simply will be in a hole again in a year.

Other components of the federal stimulus act will be announced over the next several months as to funding levels and specific requirements. There will be extensive tax cuts for working families and small businesses to create more confidence and to encourage spending. The act also includes monies for infrastructure investments that are "shovel ready" to put people to work and to make many long overdue improvements. Targeted investments will be made to improve technology in health care and to expand the production of renewable energy. Tax credits and other financial enhancements should make higher education more affordable. Additional support will also be coming to local government.

The stimulus package came just in time to allow us to balance the budget for at least the immediate future. It also allows us to pack up just like the circus and move on.

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RESTON CONNECTION ❖ FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 3, 2009 ❖ 5

# Three Steps on Health Care

**Smoking restrictions, SCHIP, Cobra subsidies should lead to a healthier Virginia.**

**F**or a minute, some would be forgiven for wondering if we were still in Virginia. A smoking ban for many bars and restaurants? In Virginia? Amazing.

Long overdue, the result will be a healthier environment for many employees of bars and restaurants who have toiled for years while breathing in a carcinogenic soup. It's never appropriate to say that wait staff, bartenders and others can "choose" to work in places that are smoke-free if they want to. In the current economy, the current job market, anyone who has a job knows they need to hang onto it if they can.

It's up to the state to ensure that employees work in a safe environment, and Virginia's new smoking restrictions are a good step in that direction.

The new rules will also benefit many businesses. In other areas, restaurant business has actually increased after smoking bans went into effect as more families and other people who were avoiding smoke-filled rooms come out to enjoy the newly cleared air.

**SCHIP:** All of Northern Virginia's members of Congress voted to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a step for healthier children and families here. The SCHIP program helps states provide health insurance coverage to uninsured children, providing health insurance to children and some parents with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who can't afford private health insurance. The SCHIP Reauthorization bill expands health coverage to 55,000 uninsured Virginia children who do not qualify for Medicaid, in addition to the 155,000 children statewide already covered by the SCHIP program.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) helps to extend health coverage to children in low-income working families with incomes above the cut-off for Medicaid coverage. Enacted in 1997, this program operates under the FAMIS (Family Access to

Medical Insurance Security). Families are eligible for this program with incomes up to twice (200 percent), of the federal poverty level. For example, in Virginia a family of four can make up to \$41,300 a year and still be eligible for FAMIS.

**COBRA:** As part of the economic stimulus bill recently passed in Congress, the Federal government will pay for 65 percent of the costs of continuing health insurance for people who lose their jobs. Going into effect March 1, the rule applies to people who lost their jobs or will lose their jobs involuntarily between last September 2008 and the end of 2009. (The subsidy is not retroactive; employees will be offered another chance to enroll in COBRA however.) Health insurance is available for terminated employees under COBRA, but without the subsidy, many unemployed people cannot afford the high premiums. The former employers will be required to pay the 65 percent, with the former employee paying 35 percent. Employers will be "reimbursed" by the Federal program by reducing their payroll taxes by that amount.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

## RELAC – 54 Percent Rate Hike

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
CIVIC LEADER AND RESTON  
IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

**W**hile we still shiver from winter's chill, few Reston residents are thinking ahead to summer's heat and discomfort. But, for the 400 families who live in Lake Anne and are shackled by covenant to the antique chilled water air conditioning provided by the Reston Lake Anne Air Conditioning Corp (RELAC), it may be time to focus on your summer cooling.

RELAC is now a minor part of the Aqua Virginia/Aqua America (AV) conglomerate. Aqua Virginia is anxious to make it profitable or, preferably, unload it. In March, AV/RELAC will go to the Virginia State Corporation Commission to request a rate increase of 54 percent. Their need for a huge increase is not due to costs incurred for investment in or improvement of the decaying, outmoded system as AV promised three years ago. Those unkept promises were made in the context of a community referendum on the question: should RELAC users be allowed to switch

to newer, more efficient cooler systems.

The community was conned and the referendum went down by 30 votes. How were a slight majority of owners convinced to vote it down? Basically, there were three factors: the cost of converting to a new AC system; concern that new outdoor cooling units would be too noisy and detract from lakeside solitude; and, hope that promised investments would bring the aging system closer to modern unit effectiveness. Wrong on all three counts it turns out:

1. Cost: Currently, townhouses on RELAC pay from \$320 to \$1,503 each for "cooling" for one season. (The huge discrepancies in cost per townhouse are another story.) Assuming RELAC is granted its 54 percent rate increase, residents will now pay from \$494 to \$2,315 per season not including electricity wasted running the unit's fan continuously. Not paying these costs would enable one to quickly amortize a new system.

2. Sound: New, more efficient units properly baffled will add sound, but only slightly. And they will actually cool a home effectively.

3. Investments to make the system anywhere near comparable to new standard systems would be huge and

are nowhere on the horizon.

Aqua Virginia has now offered to donate — yes, for free — the RELAC relic to the Reston Association to own and operate. Incredibly, RA said it would look into the possibility. What RA should be doing is working with residents to develop alternatives (as the Lake Anne Condo Association is already doing) for the needed 400 or so individual, environmentally effective AC systems that will assure our survival through the summers. After a new referendum, of course.

Imagine — if Reston were a town, we could actually solve problems like this.

### Write

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Bill of Unknown Goods

To the Editor:

Most Restonians will receive their ballot this week to vote on the proposed RA headquarters referendum. The proposed referendum calls for approval to spend \$15 million, three times as much money as was approved by Restonians in 2005 for the same purpose. The specific building RA has in mind is three-quarters as large (35,000 square feet vs. less than 20,000 square feet) as its current headquarters and, at \$9.8 million, nearly twice as expensive as the "cost saving" proposal approved three years ago.

All this has been done without defining need for such a large headquarters through a systematic and rigorous analysis, much less any advance public discussion of the proposal. Indeed, the 2005 referendum proposal made it clear that Reston did not need or want additional space. We have no serious explanation of what has changed since then.

Increased RA staffing — if legitimately required — could be one reason for expanding the headquarters' size, but RA headquarters staffing levels — now fewer than 50 — have fallen modestly in recent years. We don't need

SEE LETTER, PAGE 15

# RA Headquarters Referendum Debated

FROM PAGE 3

Details of discussions between the RA board, the commercial real estate brokers' group it is working with and property owners could not be discussed, although Millar, a professional real estate agent, said she was pleased to hear that there was a national brokerage group on board.

**FRANK PFEILMEIER**, founder and vice president of the Alliance of Reston Clusters and

Homeowners (ARCH), said he wanted a new headquarters and understood that matters had to be kept confidential to protect the association's bargaining leverage, but he was frustrated not to know important details. "We don't know what we're actually approving to buy," he said.

Smyers said the cost of renovations and even the size of the space were still unknown and that \$15 million represented a worst-case scenario, so that the association

**"We have a 'trust me' referendum."**

— **Frank Pfeilmeier, ARCH vice president**

would not have to put the matter to another vote.

David Hopkins, the association's chief financial officer, said the cost of build out would be negotiable, depending in part on the materials used. "These are typical costs, based on a Chevrolet. It's not a

Cadillac version," he said.

Shawn Endsley, chair of the fiscal committee that advises the association, said the committee had decided to support the referendum. He said many variables would constrain the RA board from "doing anything crazy," and that the fiscal committee would assist in all the details it could. "At the end of the day, this is a great time for an organization that has the wherewithal to do something like this," Endsley said.

"We have a 'trust me' referendum," Pfeilmeier said.

Fulkerson agreed that a measure of trust was involved. She noted that it was her money, too, that was being spent and said she had a "high level of trust" in the independent broker. "It's a question of, do you want to make improvements to a site you're going to lease or do you want to make improvements to a site you're going to own?" she said. Ballots have been sent out and are due by 5 p.m. on April 10.



PHOTO BY JULIAN LAURENT/THE CONNECTION

**Representatives of the Reston Rotary Club and Terraset alumni, from left, Maddy Lane, senior, South Lakes High School; Jim Gates; Liz Schenker, senior, South Lakes High School; Joyce Johnson; Ashley Cygrymus, junior, South Lakes High School; Carol Ann Babcock; Ellen Cury, principal of Terraset Elementary; J.D. Von Pischke; Alexandra Byrd, junior, South Lakes High School.**

## Spreading the Words

This past Thursday, Feb. 19, the Rotary Club of Reston distributed dictionaries to the third-graders at Terraset Elementary School. As part of Rotary International's "March Is Literacy Month" program, third-grade students attending elementary schools in the South Lakes High School pyramid each received two dictionaries — an English dictionary and a Spanish-English dictionary.

As educators have come to believe that the third-grade marks the transitional period wherein students go from learning to read to reading to learn, the time seems opportune to begin providing resources toward the development of expansive vocabularies.

At last week's event, four Terraset alumni who currently attend South Lakes High School returned to their elementary alma mater to speak with the third-graders about the Rotary Club's efforts. The elementary students were excited and eager to receive their dictionaries, quickly flipping through the collection of words immediately upon their reception.

The Reston Rotary Club is part of the Rotary International program, the world's first service club organization. For more information on Rotary International, visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). More on The Dictionary Project can be found at [www.DictionaryProject.org](http://www.DictionaryProject.org).

— JULIAN LAURENT

## Plan B Studied

FROM PAGE 3

Planning Commissioner Frank de la Fe.

Reston has a covenant that would not permit mixed residential/commercial development near the Wiehle Avenue Metro stop normally and the county must try

to get private landowners in the area to agree to overturn it before moving forward with a transit-oriented development project, said de la Fe.

"I hope this never gets built like this," said At-large Planning Commissioner Walter Alcorn.

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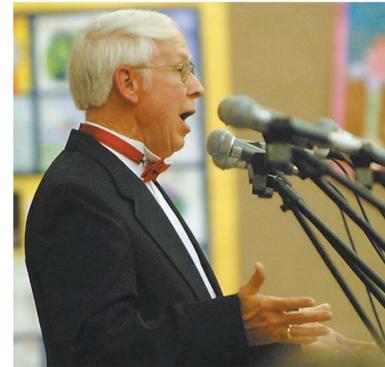
Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Reston Chorale Presents 'Heart Strings'



The Reston Chorale presented Heart Strings, a Valentine's related performance on Feb. 21 at the Reston Community Center.



David Trucksess performs a solo presentation of "All the Way" during a performance of the Reston Chorale on Feb. 21.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



Reston area residents attend a performance by the Reston Chorale at the Reston Community Center on Saturday evening.



Frederick Wygal, artistic director of the Reston Chorale, directs the choir during their Heart Stings presentation.

## PassionFish of Reston Owner Featured on Today Show

Jeff Tunks, chef owner of Washington, D.C., restaurants Acadiana, Ceiba, DC Coast and TenPenh, as well as PassionFish in Reston, was featured on NBC's Today Show Monday, Feb. 16, demonstrating recipes for dishes that are lighter and heart-healthy.

All this week, The Today Show will be focusing on heart-healthy eating; Tunks' segment with Dr. Nancy Snyderman and Al Roker kicked off the week.

Tunks is knowledgeable when it comes to healthy eating: Like many in the food service industry, he was overweight, a problem that had crept up over the years. As a result, he was facing serious health problems. Tunks' father and grandfather both died of heart attacks; his grandfather was just 44 when he passed away.

Determined to turn his health

around and be a more active father to his two young sons, he lost more than 120 pounds — a significant percentage of his body weight, even taking into account his height of 6 feet, 3 inches — by changing what and when he eats and adding more exercise into his life.

"I've developed a routine at the restaurants and now that that's established, it's easier to be disciplined," said Tunks. He eats fish for lunch and chicken for dinner and limits his intake of carbohydrates after 2 p.m. And his success is not all in the food itself. Tunks exercises regularly, putting in an intensive cardiovascular workout five times a week and lifting weights three times a week at a gym convenient to his restaurants. He has also been especially conscious of controlling portion size since he set out to overcome the chief pitfall of his profession.



Chef Jeff Tunks kicked off a week of television reports on heart-healthy eating.

## 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).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 27

**Organic Gardening.** 7-8:30 p.m., Reston Association, 1930 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. Join a master gardener for some information on organic gardening. \$5/RA members; \$8/non-residents. Reservations required by Feb. 24; call 703-435-6530.

**Audition.** 7:30 p.m., Lindsay C. Petersen Hall, 266 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Reston Community Players are holding auditions for their production of "Laughing Stock." There are 9 male roles and 5 female roles.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 28

**Audition.** 2 p.m., Lindsay C. Petersen Hall, 266 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Reston Community Players are holding auditions for their production of "Laughing Stock." There are 9 male roles and 5 female roles.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 1

**Susquehanna University Choir.** 7:30 p.m., Henndon United Methodist Church, 701 Bennett St., Herndon. The Susquehanna University Choir and Chamber Singers will perform both sacred and secular pieces. Call 703-471-0627.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 6

**Absinthe Tasting.** Morton's Steakhouse, 11956 Market St., Reston. Morton's will host "Absinthe: The Green Hour," a tasting of Pernod's Absinthe. Call 703-796-0128.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 7

**Jayantika Dance Company.** 8 p.m., Round House Theatre, 4545 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD. The Jayantika Dance company of Herndon will perform at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Dance Bethesda." Tickets: \$20/adults, \$10/children 12 and under. Buy tickets at [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 8

**The Eisenstadt Quartet.** 3 p.m., Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. The Eisenstadt Quartet will perform their string music as part of Holy Cross' Second Sunday Series. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/students, children under 9/free. Call 703-437-1883.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 14

**Voce Chamber Singers.** 7:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. The Voce Chamber Singers are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by singing some of their favorite songs. Voce's founding director, Carol Hunter, will return to conduct a few songs. Tickets: \$18/adults, \$13/seniors, \$8/students in advance; \$2 more at door. E-mail [VoceVa@hotmail.com](mailto:VoceVa@hotmail.com) or call 703-277-7772 for tickets.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 15

**Voce Chamber Singers.** 3 p.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The Voce Chamber Singers are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by singing some of their favorite songs. Voce's founding director, Carol Hunter, will return to conduct a few songs. Tickets: \$18/adults, \$13/seniors, \$8/students in advance; \$2 more at door. E-mail [VoceVa@hotmail.com](mailto:VoceVa@hotmail.com) or call 703-277-7772 for tickets.

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## ART

277-7772 for tickets.  
**Tribute to Robert Simon Concert.** 4 p.m., Hunters Woods Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Community Orchestra will perform at a concert to honor Reston founder Robert Simon. The Reston Chorale will also perform.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

**Trip to Columbia, Md.** Begin with a bus tour highlighting Columbia's planning and development history, open space, then preview of redevelopment plans for Columbia Town Center and finish with a walking tour of the Town Center. Bus pick ups: Ledo's Pizza at Hunters Wood Shopping Center, 8:30 a.m.; Thoreau Place, 1951 Sagewood Lane, Reston, 8:45 a.m.; Lake Anne Fellowship House, 11450 North Shore Drive, Reston, 9 a.m. Call 703-435-6577 to register. Fee: \$21 Reston Association members; \$26 non-members.

**Project Natalie.** 2-3 p.m., Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 W. Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy a jazz infusion of funk, rock and R&B. Free. Call 703-437-9101.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 3

**Women's Show.** 10 a.m.-9 p.m., 4368 Brookfield Corporate Drive, Chantilly. Satisfy your cravings at the Women's Show of Northern Virginia. Don't miss savvy shopping, creative cooking ideas, healthy lifestyle tips, fashion shows, celebrity guests and prizes. \$6/adults at door, \$8 online, \$7.50 at Harris Teeter; \$5/children 6-12; under 6 free with adult; \$7.50 each/groups of 10 or more. Call 800-849-0248 or visit [WomensShowNOVA.com](http://WomensShowNOVA.com) for tickets.



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**Jane Ross with "Painting Number 3" from the "Briar Series." The painting will be on display with other works from the Ross and Karen Danenberger in the exhibit "Delight" at Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston through March 1.**

**An exhibition of art by students** from Herndon High School entitled "Emerging Visions: ROOTS" will be on display Feb. 26-April 14 at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston.

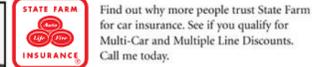
The **Elden Street Players** received 13 nominations for outstanding performance in three productions during calendar year 2008. The Washington Area Community Theatre Honors program

announced the nominations at The Birchmere in Alexandria. WATCH is an organization of thirty area community theater companies founded for the adjudication and presentation of annual awards recognizing artistic and technical excellence in community theatre throughout the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. The awards ceremony will be held March 1, 7 p.m., at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

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# South Lakes Makes Late Push, But Falls at Regionals

Winter Scott's girls experienced a wonderful basketball season.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

A remarkable breakthrough season for the South Lakes High girls basketball team came to an end Monday night when the Seahawks, despite a frantic, late-game comeback attempt, lost to South County, 53-48, in a first-round Northern Region playoff game. The postseason contest took place at South Lakes.

"Overall, I'm just extremely proud," said South Lakes coach Christy Winters Scott, whose team has won three, four, 11 and 19 games over her four years as head coach.

South County (15-7), with the win, advanced to Tuesday's quarterfinals where it was scheduled to play at Oakton. South Lakes, with the loss, saw its season end at 19-4. The team's only losses all season long came to Langley, twice; Madison, in the district semifinals, and South County.

This was new territory for South Lakes, which had not qualified for regionals in about 10 years. The Seahawks, the No. 2 seed from the Liberty District, started off slowly against the Stallions, the Patriot District's No. 3 seed. They simply could not find their shooting range in the first quarter and did not score their first basket until senior point guard Kelcyn Manurs connected on a 10-foot, pull-up jumper from the right baseline with two minutes, 40 seconds remaining in the opening quarter. South Lakes, following that basket, trailed 9-3 and ultimately fell behind 19-5 by the end of the quarter.

"Initially, I think their size bothered us some," Winters Scott said of a South County team that started two girls over 6-feet in height.

The Seahawks looked better in the second quarter. Manurs scored 11 of her team-high 17 points in the stanza, but South Lakes still found themselves down, 32-18, at halftime. And the home team could not get any closer in the third quarter, despite senior Kacey Liscomb's 10 points over the eight minutes following the half. The Seahawks, trailing 44-29 after three quarters, looked to be out of it.

**BUT THE TEAM**, behind a vocal and supportive home crowd, came storming back in the final quarter, thanks to a relentless, now-or-never defensive mindset that appeared to rattle South County. Liscomb, who scored all 14 of her points in the second half, had a couple of defensive steals during the final quarter to lead a charge that saw the Seahawks slowly get themselves back into the contest. Her steal and ensuing layup got South Lakes within double figures at 47-39 with 4:04 left to play. A short time later, teammate Manurs converted a layup bucket following a steal to get her team closer at 49-44 with 2:27 showing.

Following two free throws by South County sophomore center Simone Antwi that put the Stallions ahead 51-44, Manurs scored the game's next four points — a 3-pointer from the top of the key, followed nearly a minute later by a free throw that got South Lakes within 51-48 with 47 seconds left.

South Lakes, with its fans in full enthusiasm, looked as if it would gain possession of the ball with a chance to tie the score on a 3-pointer after Antwi missed the front end of a one-on-one with 21 seconds left. But the 6-foot-1 post player got her own rebound following the miss. A few seconds later, following a South Lakes foul, South County's Alexis Brown made two free throws to all but ice the game at 53-48 with



**Kacey Liscomb (40) of South Lakes scored all 14 of her points in the second half and had several key fourth-quarter steals to help ignite the Seahawks' comeback try against South County.**

15 seconds left to play. That ended up being the final score.

"I told the girls [following the game] I was extremely proud of them at the end of the game," said Winters Scott. "They had a tremendous push [in the final quarter]. That was Seahawks' basketball. The crowd was there and the energy was in the place."

**SOUTH COUNTY** won behind the play of frontcourt sensation Antwi, who finished the night with 26 points and 17 rebounds. Throughout the first half especially, the Stallions looked to get the ball into their best

players' hands inside the paint. The results were several converted shots from close range.

"Clearly they had a size advantage all around," said Winters Scott. "That's a daunting task for us."

Antwi, one of the top players in the region, is extremely skilled along with having good size. She shoots the ball well, moves up and down the court with energy and hustle and blocks out in textbook fashion on the boards. Several of her baskets came off of rebound follow-ups.

"I've watched videos of her," said Winters Scott. "She's definitely phenomenal. We tried to take the lob pass away. We knew that was their bread and butter."

South Lakes appeared to be taken back by Antwi's prowess and presence in the first quarter. She scored consecutive close-range shots during the opening minutes of the game to help the guests build a 9-1 lead and she finished the first quarter with 12 points.

"We know our strength," said South County coach Chrissy Kelly, whose young team has just one senior member.

Kelly was most impressed with her team's defensive prowess. While South Lakes' three key players — senior tri-captains Manurs, Liscomb (14 points) and Jasmine Jones (nine points, six rebounds) accounted for 40 of South Lakes' 48 points, Kelly said her team did about as well as it could do against the talented Seahawks.

"We find our identity on defense," said Kelly. "South Lakes has a lot of experience in their guards. They have an outstanding trio of guards. Every single one of them is a threat with the ball in their hands."

Kelly anticipated a late game uprising by South Lakes because of its' key backcourt players. "I knew they would turn it up," she said. "They are tough guards with a scoring mentality."

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Registration for Reston Youth Association **coed spring flag football** is now open. The league is also looking for volunteers interested in coaching and refereeing.

Visit [www.RestonSeahawks.org](http://www.RestonSeahawks.org) to register. The fee is \$60. The league is for boys and girls, ages 5-18. No experience is needed. There is one hour of practice a week and one game per weekend, so that area youth can play flag football, while continuing to participate in other spring sports. Games, which will be held at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston, will begin in April. E-mail [flag@restonseahawks.org](mailto:flag@restonseahawks.org).

Registration is open for **Herndon-Reston Lacrosse**.

The club is also looking for coaches and volunteers. Registration is open through March to youth — boys and girls, ages 6-15 — in the Herndon and Reston areas. No experience is needed. There are separate teams for boys and girls in age-divisions U-15, U-13, U-11, and U-9, and there are various levels of play based on experience. The teams compete in the Northern Virginia Youth Lacrosse League, [www.nvyll.org](http://www.nvyll.org). Equipment rental and financial assistance is available. The season begins in March and runs through the first week of June. For more information and to register, visit [www.HRYL.org](http://www.HRYL.org).

**Nature Team Tennis**, presented by Sports for Nature, will

take place at the Skyline Sport & Health Club, 5115 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Saturday, April 25. The event is open to all USTA members and nonmembers. There is space for four teams per division, register early. Cost is \$375 per team. Captain of each team is responsible for registering his/her team. Send a check payable to "Sports for Nature" to The Green Business, 12001 Market St., No. 303, Reston, VA 20190. A confirmation receipt will be sent once check is received. Registration deadline is April 22. There will be food, beverage, raffles, gifts, trophies, medals and prizes for all players. The event will benefit environmental organizations in their quest to conserve more land, water, animals and plants.



**South Lakes' Mike Grimmatt-Norris finished sixth in the boys 200 free relay event at the Northern Region Swim and Dive Championships, held Feb. 10-14, at Oak Marr Recreation Center. Grimmatt-Norris and his Seahawk teammates competed at states this past weekend at the Freedom Center in Manassas.**



**Representatives for the Reston Latchkey Youth Initiative, from left, Mary Carol Kulick, development consultant, FPY; Bob Simon; Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill); Linda Eatmon-Jones, executive director, FPY; Leila Gordon, executive director, Reston Community Center.**

PHOTO BY  
JULIAN LAURENT/  
THE CONNECTION

## Plugging into Youths' Needs

**Web site provides one-stop resource for activities and support available to the youth throughout Reston.**

BY JULIAN LAURENT  
THE CONNECTION

There is never a dearth of activities and programming for the children and teens of Reston. The Community Center, the Reston Association, the YMCA — these are just three of the more familiar organizations in Reston where one can find events, activities, support networks and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. But these three are only the tip of the resource iceberg and a collaborative of Fairfax County agencies and Reston community organizations are working together to provide a Web-based resource where all of these and other resources available throughout the community can be easily accessed by the youth and the parents of Reston.

This collective effort of organizations throughout Fairfax County, called The Reston Latchkey Youth Initiative, has developed a Web-based “one-stop” resource that provides information on affordable and accessible out-of-school and after-school activities for the youth of Reston. The Web site titled, “For Youth Information” or “FYI”, was introduced at a launch fair Tuesday, Feb. 24, and can be reached through a link on the homepage of the Fairfax Partnership for Youth’s Web site [www.fairfaxyouth.org](http://www.fairfaxyouth.org).

Two more launch fairs will be held Thursday, Feb. 26, to familiarize parents and the youth with the FYI Web site. The first will be at Langston Hughes Middle School, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the second will be at Southgate Community Center, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to sign up for a free Metrorail SmartTrip Card and a scheduled RIBS (Reston Internal Bus System) ride on Saturday, Feb. 28 to familiarize themselves with activity locations.

“The goal is for every kid to find something to do that is productive and positive,” Leila Gordon, executive director of the Reston Community Center, said of the Initiative. In various sections of the Web site, information can be found on everything from after-school activities, career services, social and school support, to medical help, counseling hotlines, infor-

mation on public transportation, athletic clubs, and much more.

**GORDON EMPHASIZED** that the current conditions of the economy have made such an informational port even more pressing and important for the community’s youth. “It is easy to forget that [in times like the current] the kids are impacted in big ways; do they still get to play ball, do they still get to go to summer camp? We need to begin thinking about how to help kids who get trapped in these unfortunate situations and need some sort of immediate help to get through these periods of crisis.”

Toward this end, the Reston Latchkey Youth Initiative is also working on developing scholarship services for children and teenagers who face financial obstacles preventing them from fully utilizing the resources on the Web site. Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said, “It shouldn’t be what family you belong to that determines whether you’ll play chess, soccer, basketball, swimming ... Everyone should be able to participate.”

Linda Eatman-Jones, executive director of the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, describes the approach taken by the initiative as the “three As — affordability [scholarships], awareness and accessibility.”

Hudgins relayed an encounter she had had with a Reston mother, “She told me that she did not get off work until seven o’clock and that her daughter was told to stay at home until she returned from work. This wasn’t what I wanted to hear because I know that Reston has a wealth of programs and activities available to children and teens. The question is how do we let the family know that these programs are available? How do we make it possible for the child to get there?”

**IDEALLY**, a student who is released from school hours before their parent or guardian returns from work or who is looking for daytime activities over school breaks, will be able to find an assortment of activities to choose from. With the collaboration of the bus system in Reston, the student will have a way to and from the activities. “In the community, there is a great transportation system, so we need to help younger users use it more to become better transit users,” said Hudgins. “It’s a good tool, a safe tool and it helps the children grow up to be more independent; to help them move through the community without having to have mom and dad transport them.” Gordon said, “The goal going forward is that we’ll build this layer by layer so that we don’t just have a Web site but that instead we’ll end up with a system that really is able to help people.”

**“The goal is for every kid to find something to do that is productive and positive.”**

— Leila Gordon,  
Reston Community Center,  
executive director

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11601 SPRINGHOUSE PL	4	3	1		RESTON	\$665,000	Detached	0.16		RESTON
11129 GLADE DR	3	2	1		RESTON	\$575,000	Detached	0.49		RESTON
2159 CABOTS POINT LN	3	3	0		RESTON	\$500,000	Townhouse	0.07		RESTON
11776 STRATFORD HSE PL#808	2	2	0		RESTON	\$500,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			STRATFORD
11423 SOUTH LAKES DR	5	3	0		RESTON	\$500,000	Detached	0.29		RESTON
11013 RING RD	4	2	1		RESTON	\$495,000	Detached	0.40		RESTON
2200 ROARK DR	4	2	1		RESTON	\$485,000	Detached	0.26		POLO FIELDS
12709 ROARK CT	4	3	1		RESTON	\$480,100	Detached	0.23		POLO FIELDS
12025 NEW DOMINION PKWY#312	1	1	1		RESTON	\$426,500	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			MIDTOWN NORTH
12325 PANAMA RD	4	2	1		RESTON	\$425,000	Detached	0.41		RESTON
1201 WEATHERSTONE CT	3	2	2		RESTON	\$412,000	Townhouse	0.06		RESTON
2141 GOLF COURSE DR	3	3	1		RESTON	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.03		RESTON
1591 AUTUMN RIDGE CIR	3	3	1		RESTON	\$378,000	Townhouse	0.03		RESTON
1830 FOUNTAIN DR #805	2	2	0		RESTON	\$375,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			PARAMOUNT
2147 GOLF COURSE DR	3	3	1		RESTON	\$368,000	Townhouse	0.03		RESTON
11990 MARKET ST #1618	1	1	0		RESTON	\$351,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			MIDTOWN AT RESTON
1782 WAINWRIGHT DR	3	2	1		RESTON	\$345,000	Townhouse	0.04		RESTON
12264 ANGEL WING CT	4	3	0		RESTON	\$340,000	Detached	0.23		RESTON
2063 WETHERSFIELD CT	4	3	1		RESTON	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.04		RESTON
1938 WINTERPORT CL	3	2	1		RESTON	\$294,000	Townhouse	0.04		RESTON
11028 GRANBY CT	3	2	0		RESTON	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.04		RESTON
11800 SUNSET HILLS RD #217	2	2	0		RESTON	\$283,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			CARLTON HOUSE
1501 FARSTA CT	2	3	1		RESTON	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.08		RESTON
1638 BARNSTEAD DR	3	1	2		RESTON	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.04		RESTON
1307 WINDLEAF DR ## H	2	2	0		RESTON	\$256,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SUTTON RIDGE
1647 SIERRA WOODS DR	3	2	2		RESTON	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.05		RESTON
1925B VILLARIDGE DR #1925B	2	2	0		RESTON	\$250,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			VILLARIDGE
1584 WOODCREST DR	2	3	0		RESTON	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.03		RESTON
2270 MARGINELLA DR	3	1	1		RESTON	\$217,500	Detached	0.08		RESTON
2258 COQUINA DR	3	2	0		RESTON	\$197,000	Detached	0.07		RESTON
11760 SUNRISE VALLEY DR#1006	1	1	0		HERNDON	\$194,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			MERCER
2353 EMERALD HEIGHTS CT	3	2	1		RESTON	\$170,000	Townhouse	0.04		RESTON
2366 ANTIQUA CT	3	2	2		RESTON	\$170,000	Townhouse	0.03		RESTON
11655 CHESTERFIELD CT #L	1	1	0		RESTON	\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARCRESTON
2333 EMERALD HEIGHTS CT	3	3	1		RESTON	\$158,000	Townhouse	0.03		RESTON
2215 CARTWRIGHT PL	3	1	1		RESTON	\$148,000	Townhouse	0.04		RESTON
11625 VANTAGE HILL RD #12B	2	1	1		RESTON	\$145,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			VANTAGE HILL
11954 BARREL COOPER CT	4	2	1		RESTON	\$144,000	Townhouse	0.03		RESTON
11622 VANTAGE HILL RD #1A	1	1	0		RESTON	\$125,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			VANTAGE HILL
2315 FREETOWN CT #12C	3	1	0		RESTON	\$124,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			GLENVALE
1951 SAGEWOOD LN #110	1	1	0		RESTON	\$120,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THOREAU PLACE
2305 FREETOWN CT #16/22C	3	1	0		RESTON	\$118,300	Garden 1-4 Floors			GLENVALE
2212 CASTLE ROCK SQ #12/1B	2	2	0		RESTON	\$109,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			SHADOWOOD

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To search for a home online, visit [www.HomesDatabase.com](http://www.HomesDatabase.com).

## Stunning Homes Are Waiting for You at These OPENS February 28th and March 1st



\*Featured Home-1321 Mason Mill Ct., \$499,000  
Sun 1-4, Marnie Schaar, Long & Foster, 703-509-3107

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

1321 Mason Mill Ct. \$499,000 Sun 1-4 Marnie Schaar Long & Foster 703-509-3107

### Reston

11306 Fairway Dr. \$574,000 Sun 1-4 Dave King Long & Foster 703-509-5137  
2315 Glade Bank Way \$380,000 Sun 1-4 Shirley Mattam-Male McEneaney 571-220-9481  
11616 Ivystone Ct. #300 \$249,900 Sun 1-4 Agent e-venture LLC 703-476-8741  
1439 Northgate Sq. #12 \$99,000 Sun 1-3 Ed Bakke Samson Realty 703-963-2480

### Loudoun County

#### Ashburn

22691 Ashley Inn Ter. \$393,900 Sun 1-4 Paula Stewart Weichert 703-938-6070  
43890 Camellia St. \$720,000 Sun 1-4 Stephen Adamson Weichert 703-726-3909  
43037 Hedge Apple Ct. \$460,000 Sun 12-3 Ann Hogan Weichert 571-216-9614  
43278 Rush Run Ter. \$309,000 Sun 1-4 Amy Sikora Weichert 540-338-2024

#### Chantilly

25495 Gover Dr. \$349,900 Sun 1-4 Don Samson Samson 703-864-4884  
25722 Rawley Springs Dr. \$625,000 Sun 1-4 Elizabeth McGuinness Long & Foster 703-626-1952

#### Landsowne

43040 Caledonia Ct. \$532,500 Sun 1-4 Lynn McKnight Jobin 703-629-1026

#### Leesburg

615 Beauregard Dr. SE \$550,000 Sun 2-4 Donna Griffin Weichert 540-454-9751

#### Purcellville

252 Golden Larch Ter. NE \$180,000 Sun 1-4 Saiful Ansari Weichert 703-728-5852

#### Sterling

18579 Woodburn Rd. \$624,900 Sun 12-3 Katherine Forno RE/MAX 703-771-2345  
20241 Water Mark Pl. \$979,000 Sun 1-4 Lynda Kay Long & Foster 703-915-0574

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.

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## 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.





## LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

more headquarters room for employees unless the RA board is secretly planning to ramp up employment substantially.

Board members also argue that we need larger conference rooms to accommodate larger crowds at public meetings. Having attended such meetings, I can say that in any given year no more than three-four meetings attract overflow crowds. Instead of buying a large building with 15,000 square feet available for infrequent large meetings, the RA should look into scheduling these meetings at public buildings in Reston, including the Reston Community Center, the high school or the junior high school — all of which have large conference rooms, cafeterias and auditoriums available for little or no cost. If that's good enough for our local county supervisor ... it's surely good enough for RA.

Detailed analysis of the cost of such a building, using RA's cost projection methodology, shows that it will cost Restonians nearly twice as much to buy the \$9.8 million building at the end of the first 10 years as renewing the current lease, or a lease elsewhere for the same size space, over the same timeframe. The difference is \$17.5 million vs. \$9.4 million, or \$8.1 million. And that means assessment fees will have to go up an average \$35 more per year to buy this building than continuing to rent the current size space for the next 10 years, \$76 vs. \$41 per year.

Given RA's weak capital position, some

\$7.5 million returning less than 1 percent APY last month, RA could choose to fund the \$2 million down payment by a special assessment, which would only add to the immediate costs to Restonians.

... Thus, RA is looking at paying a substantial premium to the market for a building far too large for its needs. The bottom line is that RA could have bought a building like the one it rents — a utilitarian Class "B" building — for the same \$5 million or less authorized in the 2005 referendum if it had done its homework.

More worrisome yet is that the new referendum proposal is for \$15 million, meaning approval could see RA buy a 50,000-plus square-foot building at the price of \$281/SF. Obviously, the cost to Restonians of such an edifice would be at least half again as large.

The RA board needs to drop its referendum proposal — or my fellow Restonians must reject it — until we have a detailed assessment of the need to buy a larger headquarters and a complete presentation of the costs associated with that investment, including how RA proposes to pay for it. Until then, Restonians are being sold a bill of expensive and unknown goods by the RA Board. In this period of severe personal and national economic uncertainty as well as RA undercapitalization, that is not a bet we should be asked or willing to take. Please vote "NO" on the headquarters referendum.

**Terry Maynard**  
Reston

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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, computer bus.



Call Terry Atherton 703-861-0538  
terry.atherton@longandfooster.com



**Reston \$550,000**  
**WOW!**  
Over 90K in recent updates in this dream home, perfection w/3BR, 3BA, deck overlooks private wooded area, original owners have updated w/hdws, wooden blinds, granite, appliances, built-in bookcases, HVAC, roof & more!



Call Aquina at 703-798-3761  
www.AquinaBuehrigHomes.com



**Herndon/Oak Hill \$575,000**  
**Filled with Natural Light!**  
Inviting Hampton model has all new windows, awesome custom master bath, generous rooms on all 3 fin levels. Lovely backyard creates a haven for relaxing & entertaining! This home is in pristine condition. Call today it won't last!



Call Debbie Tencza 703-597-4667  
Tencza@LNF.com



**Reston \$550,000**  
**Just Listed!**  
Fully updated garage townhome in North Reston! 4BR, 3.5BA's on 3 lvls. Gorgeous hdws, updated kit w/SS appliances, ceramic tile floor, new cabinetry & granite countertops. Luxury master BA completely updated, 2FP's. Trex deck off FR backing to trees. Must see!

Call Marnie Schaar 703-509-3107  
marnie.schaar@LNF.com



**Reston \$549,900**  
**Stunning End Unit!**  
3BR, 3.5BA townhome in N Reston backing to trees & upgraded throughout. Gour kit w/granite, 42" maple cabinets, ctr island w/cooktop, double oven, SS appliances, hdws. Updated light fixtures, mstr BA updated w/tile floor, dual vanity w/granite, Jacuzzi tub, mstr BA w/2 walk-in closets, large FR w/gas FP, 3 lvl bumpout.



Call Lynda Kay 703-915-0574  
lynda.kay@longandfooster.com



**Potomac Falls \$979,000**  
**Lowes Island!**  
Located on the 13th hole of the Lowes Island Golf Course & minutes walk to the Potomac River. A stunning 6BR, 5.5BA home w/main level master, 6FP's, gour kit, walkout basement, 6000 SF. OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, March 1st, 1-4 Dir:Tyson's, Rte 7W, R-Algonkian Pwy, R-Lowes Island Blvd to #2041 Water Mark Place storage.



Call Lynda Kay 703-915-0574  
lynda.kay@longandfooster.com



**Reston \$379,950**  
**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 Orend 703-407-3300  
Pat.Orend@LNF.com



**Reston \$739,500**  
**One Level Living**  
In this patio style home's incredible open floorplan 3BR, 2.5BA featuring first floor luxury master suite, soaring ceilings, plenty of light and a huge loft.

Call Debbie Gill 703-346-1373  
www.DebGill.com



**Reston \$1,049,000**  
**Parklike Setting**  
Stunning Gulick home w/5BR, 4.5BA provides year round beauty just off North Hills cul-de-sac. Gracious floor-plan, elegant appointments, expansive decking w/upper seating/BBQ, fenced deck & terrace surrounding inground pool. Gorgeous kitchen updates, walk-out boasts 5th BR, kitchenette, massive rec rm & game rm




**Reston \$899,000**  
**Former Gulick Model!**  
5BR w/over 4700 fin SF. Stunning 2 story foyer, hdws, gour kit w/granite & breakfast room. Beautiful FR w/gas, sunlit library, MBR suite w/sitting rm. Fab fin lower lvl walk-up/rec rm, full guest ste, exercise & game rm, spectacular private lot.

Call Missy Edmondson 703-932-8484  
missyedmondson@LNF.com



**Reston \$735,000**  
**Just Listed-First Open**  
Fabulous home, location & price in N Reston lakeside cluster w/3400 SF. Gorgeous gourmet kitchen, walls of glass, master suite w/his & hers baths, fin lvr lvl w/rec rm, exercise rm, full bath. Lawn care & cluster dock.




**Ashburn \$399,900**  
**Private & Quiet**  
Beautifully maintained & updated single family home on a dead-end road backing to woods & fronting to the Village Green. Large fenced back yard, hardwoods, freshly painted inside & out. Walk to shopping & elementary school.

Call Mary Wright 703-405-4211  
www.marywright.net




**Reston \$574,900**  
**Lake Anne Original**  
Custom built contemporary w/4BR, 4BA in parklike setting. All glass in rear of home with mature trees & deck. Huge 1st floor master w/wood beams & original re-finished floors. New kit, W/D, carport, wood ceilings, 2 FP's. Walk to lake, farmers market. Minutes from Reston Town Ctr.



Call Dave King 703-509-5137  
www.VirginiaDreamHomes.com



**Reston \$648,888**  
**All this Place Needs is You!**  
Larger than it looks, upgraded granite kit, 4 large BR's, skylights, 2 wood FP's, plantation shutters, hdws, 2 large custom decks stretch into private woods, fin W/O basement, 2 story ceiling in LR, 2nd fl bal overlooks LR, luxury mstr ste storage.

Call Mark 703-307-1934  
M@LNF.com



**Fairfax \$237,000**  
**Move-in Tomorrow!**  
1BR, 1BA, 1-car garage attached, granite & stainless kit w/maple cabinets & custom ceramic tile floor, new custom paint throughout. Full size W/D. gated community. Fair Lakes Shops & restaurants right across the street!

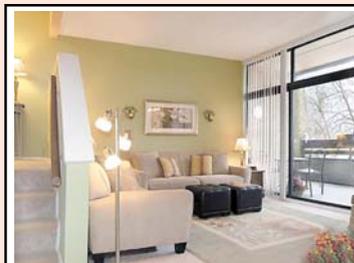



**Reston \$710,000**  
**Pride of Ownership!**  
Custom Barclay model w/5BR, 3BA, great rm addition w/loft extends kit/DR adding nearly 500 SF. Updated kit/BA's, energy efficient heat pump w/back-up gas system, hdws, gas hot water & FP replacement windows, garage & front drs, skylights, recessed lights, new driveway, paver patio + more!

Call Trudy Severa 703-623-3998 for your private showing.  
HomesbyTrudy.com



**Ashburn \$1,199,000**  
**Stunning Gulick Home!**  
Over 7000 fin SF on priv cul-de-sac in award winning Brambleton. 5BR, 4.5BA, gour kit, walk-out lower lvl w/wine tasting, media & exercise rms. Spectacular landscaping provides extended living space & elegant entertaining.

**Reston \$265,000**  
**This is a Keeper!**  
Beaut 2BR, 2BA condo. Tastefully updated. Lots of glass-charming deck overlooks Reston Golf Course. Private carport, super location.

Call Carolyn Murray 703-819-7663  
Carolyn.Murray@longandfooster.com




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call Anita Lasansky

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