



Santa and Snow at Lake Anne

NEWS, PAGE 2

Every holiday season since the Reston world began, Santa has motored down the chilly waters of Lake Anne to greet cheery believers and revelers of all ages waiting upon the plaza. And what to their wondering eyes should appear last Saturday? Santa and snow!

Reston Master Plan Study Kicks Off

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Santa and Snow at Lake Anne

Every holiday season since the Reston world began, Santa has motored down the chilly waters of Lake Anne to greet cheery believers and revelers of all ages waiting upon the plaza. And what to their wondering eyes should appear last Saturday? Santa and snow! And I heard them exclaim for the snow was not light, 'Happy Holidays to all and for all a grand sight!'

— KATHY WESTGARD



PHOTOS BY KATHY WESTGARD

WEEK IN RESTON

New RA Headquarters Announced

On Thursday, Dec. 3, Reston Association CEO Milton Matthews announced that the association had signed a 12-year lease on a space for its new headquarters at 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive in the Reston Corner office complex.

The new headquarters has 29,042 square feet of space, including 3,383 square feet of common areas such as hallways, restrooms, elevators and stairwells. As part of the lease agreement, Reston Association will pay no rent for the first year. Then, the base rent will be approximately \$27 per square foot. The association will have the option to renew the lease for an additional 10-year term.

The announcement ends months of searching throughout Reston for a headquarters facility. Commercial real estate firm Cresa Partners worked with the association to find a location that would best meet its growing needs and provide more space for member activities and operations.

For more than 35 years, Reston Association has occupied about 20,000 square feet of space in Isaac Newton Square. The lease on the property expires in August of next year.

Voce Chamber Singers Present 'Sounds of Baroque'

Voce Chamber Singers and Dr. Kenneth Nafziger artistic director present Sounds of the Baroque: A Christmas Concert.

❖ Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at St John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston;

❖ Sunday, Dec. 13, at 3 p.m. at St Timothy's Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon.

Voce Chamber Singers will be joined by musicians from The McLean Symphony for a concert of Baroque period holiday music. The program will feature selections from Handel's Judas Maccabaeus, Zielenski's Magnificat à 12, and works by Michael

SEE WEEK IN RESTON, PAGE 7

Look who wants to **KISS** us this week!



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Master Plan Study Kicks Off

Details on citizen advisory groups remain vague, but public participation is encouraged.

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

Just before the meeting that kicked off the Reston Master Plan Special Study on Tuesday, Dec. 1, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said she thought county staff would work with the Reston Association to set up citizen advisory groups to help guide the review of the community's plan, although it was not yet clear what role such groups would have. She said she recognized that input from residents would result in useful suggestions and better community buy-in on the resulting plan changes.

Most of the members of the task force that will lead the project have been appointed, but at a meeting in October, the RA's executive board had lobbied Hudgins for the creation of advisory groups to involve more citizens, many of whom attended the "land use college" that the supervisor staged over the prior couple of months. Hudgins said she would be amenable to the idea but wanted to make sure the project stayed on course to be completed by the end of 2011.

The task force also includes a number of community representatives, and public workshops will be conducted to gather input and keep the public informed.

"What we'd like to do is get the task force up," said Fred Selden, director of the county's Planning Division, adding that what sort of input the group would need from residents would become more apparent as its work got underway. He said the county wanted to work with the task force to decide how to involve residents more deeply. "In every planning study, there are issues that don't fit into land use or Comprehensive Plan language but are critical to the community," he said, offering public safety as an example of a subject that could require an advisory group. Or, he said, before the task force makes a decision on tree cover, for example, they might solicit residents' opinions, either through the RA or through a citizens' group.

RA spokeswoman Amelia Townsend said the association supported the idea of citizen advisory groups, but it was early to say exactly what their functions would be. "I'd say one of our big roles is to keep the community informed," she said.

The master plan special study is to revise the Comprehensive Plan for the Reston area, beginning with the Dulles Corridor, where Metro rail will run down the middle of the toll road and which



Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) addresses the crowd at the Reston Master Plan Special Study kickoff.



Senior planner Heidi Merkel explains the process by which Reston's plans will be revised.

now is largely made up of the Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG). The county allows high-density, mixed-use development around Metro stations, including residential uses, but the RCIG's covenants don't allow for residential or hotel space. The covenants are expected to be discarded in the near future.

The project will also review the plan for the larger part of Reston zoned as a planned residential community (PRC), particularly the village centers, Hudgins said. Lake Anne Village Center, for which a new plan was recently put in place, will be left out of the discussion, and Hudgins said she did not expect a lot of talk about the area around the planned Metro station at Wiehle Avenue, where redevelopment is already underway.

Hudgins told the 150 or so people who gathered for the meeting last week at South Lakes High School that she had asked a number of community groups to appoint members to the task force. "From the early years, the Reston community has been involved in all its planning processes," she said. The group also includes landowners because one reason the study is happening now is that property owners in the Dulles Corridor last year suggested a number of changes to the Comprehensive Plan with regard to the corridor, all of which were deferred, Hudgins said.

Patty Nicoson, president of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, will chair the task force.

"Supervisor Hudgins tried to ensure that this has a balance of participants representing a range of views in the community," said Heidi Merkel, a senior planner with the county. She said staff from the planning and zoning, transportation and public works departments, as well as the Park Authority and school system, would work with the task force.

Merkel said the study was being undertaken because some of the current plan language for the

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 5



Sunrise Valley Elementary School chess team triumphed in the U.S. Chess Center's tournament in Washington, D.C.

Sunrise Valley Chess Team Wins Charity Tournament

Students from Reston's Sunrise Valley Elementary School won the first place at the U.S. Chess Center's 2009 Elementary Team Charity Tournament.

The 21 students from Sunrise Valley competed against more than 30 different elementary schools throughout the Washington metropolitan area. All of these students belong to the school's Chess Club, which has 98 students from grades first through sixth. The school's Chess Club is taught by Peter Snow, of Snow's Chess Academy. Jyothi

Raghavan and Linda Gainer are the coordinators of the club.

The first place win goes out to Sunrise Valley's Ian Cobb, Max Deleon, Adam Drain, Ryan Ferzoco, Oliver Gainer, Jess Galliher, Ben Guo, Jake Hoetmer, Cullen Kelley, Kullen Kristky, Jarrett Lee, Jimmy Lowe, Stuart Orloff, Joshua Pan, Nikhil Ramachandran, Druv Sardana, Ritesh Shrivastav, Ritika Shrivastav, Katie Vintimilla, Kevin Vintimilla and Li-pan Wang.

The top three scorers were Lee, Kristky and Ramachandran.



FISH volunteers Ruth Ann Goodwin, Barbara Guinee and Joanne Beck prepare FISH food boxes.

FISH Seeking Food and Gifts

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. met its goal of Thanksgiving food boxes to 200 families and is now striving to fulfill its goal for food and gift boxes to 200 families, about 650 residents, for the December holiday season. To contribute to the holiday spirit of local families, non-perishable food items are requested, along with \$10 grocery store gift cards. An appeal is out for canned fish and meats for senior citizens. Gifts for infants to pre-teens, such as books,

toys, infant supplies and educational toys are needed. Gift cards are desired for teens. Donations may be delivered to 11484 Washington Plaza West, Room 140, Reston, VA 20190 on Dec. 17-18, or contact Robyn Kampf, 571-926-8019, rhkampf@gmail.com for pick-up. Make tax-deductible check donations to: Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, VA 20170. Indicate the check is for holiday boxes. Visit www.herndonrestonfish.org.

OPINION

Choose Responsibly

Many families have paid dearly for the mistakes of others; SoberRide offers a safety net.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide a chilling cautionary tale.

EDITORIAL

William Cameron Schlifke, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after his Volkswagon Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News. He was 22.

Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, Eric Fowler, 20 at the time and also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and later with involuntary manslaughter.

Last week on Nov. 30, 2009, just after the one-year anniversary of Schlifke's death, Fowler was convicted of involuntary man-

slaughter in Newport News, according to court records. Fowler's bail was revoked and he will be in jail over the holidays awaiting sentencing in March.

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In fall 2008, a different young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in unspeakable tragedy for three families. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

DON'T TAKE THE RISK. Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults in your family are similarly armed.

Free Ride Home

WRAP's 2009 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. For more, see www.wrap.org.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see www.wrap.org

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The Speaker of the House

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

On Jan. 12, 1978, the second day of business in the House of Delegates, Speaker John Warren Cooke rapped the session to order and called on the Gentleman from Fairfax, Mr. Plum, for purposes of a motion. I heard my name called, and I was petrified. It was my second day as a member of the state legislature. I could feel my face turning red as the eyes of the 99 other members of the House were fixed on me. As I slowly rose to my feet, the Speaker saved me by saying that Mr. Plum moves that we dispense with the reading of the journal. I uttered, "Yes, sir," and all the members of the House voted "no." Since that was part of my initiation to the Floor of the House, the Speaker with a big grin in my direction announced that the motion had indeed passed. Everyone else in the House broke out in laughter. Now I was officially a member of the House and pleased that the initiation was concluded. Throughout the session the speaker had fun daily calling on someone out of his or her seat or not paying attention to make that same motion. A later change in the rules made the motion no longer necessary.

Last week, that Speaker of the House, the Honorable John Warren Cooke, the Gentleman from Mathews, passed away at age 94. He served as a member of the House from 1942 to 1980. I remem-



COMMENTARY

ber my first conversation with him when I realized that he was first elected the year I was born. In many regards, he represents a transitional figure in Virginia's governance. He was so highly respected that he seldom had a challenger for re-election. He recognized the coming of the two-party system in Virginia and was the first Speaker to put Republicans on committees that actually met. He never used his power as Speaker to punish members or to enforce party discipline.

Mr. Speaker was a man of great grace and charm. He was a tall and imposing figure but always showed his best manners and respect towards others. He was somewhat of the Old South. His father, who was 76 years old when he was born, had been an aide to Gen. Robert E. Lee. He was mentioned as a possible candidate for governor but probably would not have been appealing as a candidate to the growing suburbs of the Commonwealth.

I visited Mr. Speaker a few years ago in the home where he had grown up and lived his entire life. He recognized that the Commonwealth had undergone tremendous changes since the mid-twentieth century. He had no regrets for his years of public service and expressed pleasure that the one quality everyone remembered about him was his fairness to everyone. We can all learn from the Gentleman from Mathews, Mr. Speaker, the Honorable John Warren Cooke.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time To Pass Health Care Reform

To the Editor:

We are so close to health care reform in the U.S. Don't let the naysayers, fear mongers and lies by the insurance companies fool you. Write your congressmen/women and say you want to see the U.S. catch up with the rest of the civilized world and provide affordable coverage to all Americans, which in the long run will make our country stronger and decrease costs for all.

Here is a list of the House members who get the most money from insurance lobbyists and voted no on the House bill:

- ❖ Shadegg, John B. (R), AZ-3, \$1,025,825
- ❖ Paul, Ronald Ernest (R), TX-14, \$1,115,839
- ❖ Boustany, Charles William (R), LA-7, \$1,124,736
- ❖ Gordon, Barton Jennings (D), TN-6, \$1,192,646
- ❖ Upton, Frederick Stephen (R), MI-6, \$1,210,502
- ❖ Rogers, Mike Dennis (R), AL-3, \$1,212,731
- ❖ Kirk, Mark Steven (R), IL-10, \$1,232,776

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THE CONNECTION

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Community Consultation Guides Master Plan Study

FROM PAGE 3

area need to be updated to reflect the way the community had developed, as opposed to what was planned decades ago. And, while a 2001 special study envisioned transit-oriented, mixed-use development for the Dulles Corridor, that study had assumed that the RCIG covenants would have been thrown out by now and bus rapid transit would be in place, she said.

"Reston is continuing to evolve as a community, and one of the things that has allowed Reston to evolve the way it has is a high degree of flexibility," Merkel said.

She said the study would be organized around a series of community meetings that would bring together residents, property owners, employers and employees. Also, task force meetings will be open to the public, and she said the county was recommending that they include a period for public comment. Both the recommendations for the Dulles Corridor and

for the planned residential area will each have two public hearings, one before the Planning Commission and one with the Board of Supervisors. Merkel said residents would also be able to offer input on the Web page being set up for the special study.

The Dulles Corridor will be discussed throughout most of 2010, with talks probably shifting to the residential area late that year, she said. "We view this as a schedule that's reasonable and doable," she said, noting that the existing plan language would serve as a framework to be adjusted, rather than starting from scratch. And she said it was important to have the recommendations in place before the rail was built, so that redevelopment could take place.

Merkel said the county was recommending that the task force not consider the deferred plan nominations individually but rather ask, "What makes sense for this area in total?"

Dick Stillson of the Reston Citizens Association wondered why

the two areas were being considered in sequence rather than simultaneously. "I would suggest it's not appropriate to look at the corridor without looking at the rest of Reston," he said. He also said more than just the 20 or so people on the task force needed to be involved, and in bigger ways than attending workshops. He recommended that advisory groups be formed early in the process. "The task force has a huge job. Let's help them," he said.

Merkel said citizen involvement would be a topic of the task force's organizational meeting this week. Also, she said staff was comfortable reviewing the two areas separately because many of the Dulles Corridor's issues were of a different character than those of the residential area.

The public will be invited to a second meeting on planning principles in January, followed by four community workshops before the task force issues its final recommendations for the Dulles Corridor in the summer.



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Fairfax Poised To Pass Second Tax District For Rail

Homeowners are not subject to the new taxes.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appears likely to vote in favor of creating a special tax district that will provide the bulk of the funding to build three proposed Metro stations in the Reston and Herndon area.

The supervisors unanimously accepted a petition from Western Fairfax landowners who have agreed to tax themselves in order to pay for stops at near the Reston Town Center, Herndon-Munroe Park & Ride Lot and Center for Innovative Technology on Route

28. The Fairfax County board will take a final vote to implement the tax district Dec. 21.

THE LANDOWNERS who will be taxed are those who own commercial property close to the proposed stations and who would

stand to financially benefit from their proximity to the new transit hubs. Residential homeowners are not subject to the new taxes on property, even if they live in the district.

Either the majority of the commercial landowners or those landowners that collectively hold over 50 percent of the total land's

value had to agree to the new tax before it could be considered by Fairfax County. In the end, business people holding at least 60 percent of the assessed land value in the district signed on to the petition and consented to the tax.

SEETAX DISTRICT, PAGE 11

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WEEK IN RESTON

FROM PAGE 2

Haydn and Johann Kuhnau.

Advance purchase tickets are \$18 for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$8 for students (purchase at least 24 hours prior to concert). Tickets at the door are: \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students.

For further information, advance ticket purchase, or season subscription details, contact Voce at 703-277-7772, ext. 3 or email info@voce.org. Voce's Web site is www.voce.org.

Long & Foster's Launches Toy Drive

Long & Foster's Reston North Hills office has launched its annual toy drive to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Campaign. Toys may be dropped off prior to Dec. 17, seven days a week, Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 1700 Bracknell Drive. "We hope you will be generous with your donation to help less fortunate children throughout our community," said Anita Lasanky, office sales manager.

"For nearly two decades, Long & Foster and its affiliated businesses have remained committed to helping provide a better holiday season to children in need in the communities we serve," said Wes Foster, chairman of The Long & Foster Companies.

Gift Wrapping Supports Kids R First

Between Dec. 18 and 24, when you purchase a gift at Reston Town Center, you will actually be giving two presents — if you have it wrapped by the Kids R First gift-wrapping volunteers stationed at the Hyatt Regency Reston.

The money raised by Kids R First's annual holiday wrapping service goes to the nonprofit group's programs. This school year, Kids R First donated supplies to 15,000 students from families in need at 85 schools in Northern Virginia. Through its College & Career Bound Program, it provided mini-scholarships for students at 19 high schools.

Kids R First gift-wrapping "elves" will be located in the hallway coming off the Market Street entrance of the Hyatt Regency Reston. The fee for wrapping gifts, purchased at Reston Town Center or elsewhere, is \$3 and up (more for gifts larger than a breadbox). Gifts may be dropped off for pick-up later.

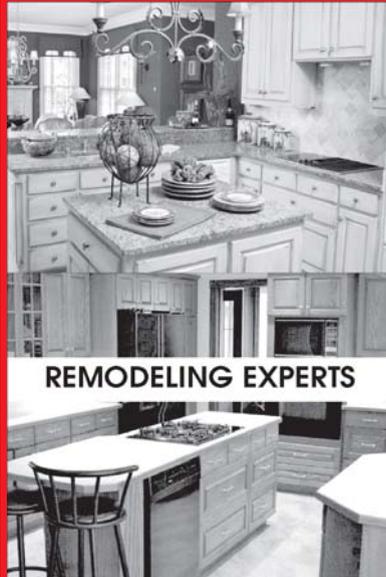
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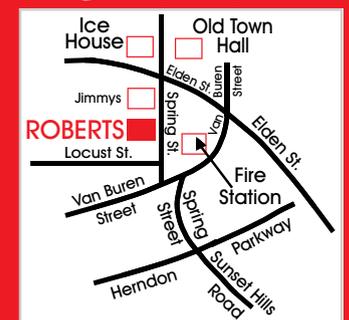
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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-689-2700.
Friends' Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Book Selection Night. Adults. 703-689-2700.
Artist Reception for Jim Kirby. 7-9

p.m. at ArtSpace, 750 Center St., Herndon. Free. The exhibit, Home for the Holidays: 20 Years of Herndon Photography, will run through Sunday, Jan. 17. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 11

Pianist George Winston's "The Winter Show." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Adults \$21-\$42. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa. www.georgewinston.com.

Advent Evensong for Women:

Come, Lord Jesus. 7 p.m. at Reston Presbyterian Church, 10610 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. Seasonal readings and hymns, followed by light fellowship. 703-759-5515.
Mason Dance Company December Concert. 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$15 adult, \$10 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.
Elden Street Players in It's A Wonderful Life. 7:30 p.m. At Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$10, \$7 age 10 and under. www.eldenstreetplayers.org or 703-481-5930.

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

Sounds of the Baroque: A Christmas Concert. 3 p.m. at St. Timothy's Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. \$18 adults, \$13 seniors and \$8 students. 703-277-7772 or VoceVA@hotmail.com.
GMU Symphony Orchestra and Choruses Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20 adult, \$15 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.
The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.
GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service. 2 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.
Holiday Model Train Show. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750-A Center St., Herndon. W&OD caboose and Herndon Depot Museum, both also open for tours. Free. 703-956-6590 or www.herndonchamber.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 14

Special Twos. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime for two-year-olds. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.
Easy Reader Book Discussion - Level 2. 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Read aloud and enjoy a related activity. Call for title. Age 6-7. 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY/DEC. 15

Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance. 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10. www.colvinrun.org.
Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center. www.ticketmaster.com.
Money Savvy Teens. 6:30 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Speaker Smita Lal on fundamentals of money management, including saving and earning interest. Age 14 and up. 703-437-8855.
Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive storytime. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-689-2700.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center. www.ticketmaster.com.
Baby Signs. 10:30 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Meet Beebo the Baby Signs Bear, hear stories and learn simple signs. Age 6-24 months with adult. 703-437-8855.
Special Twos. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime for two-year-olds. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.
A Wish To Be a Christmas Tree. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Evergreen stories for a winter's night. All ages. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Roosevelt, Truman and the Founding of Israel. 8 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Speakers will be Allis and Ronald Radosh, co-authors of A Safe Haven: Harry Truman and the Founding of Israel. Free and open to the public. 703-437-7733 or www.nvhcreston.org.



Nutcracker (Adrian Lamoureux) battles the Mouse King.



Brianne Markey, an 18-year-old Reston resident, floats across the stage.

'Nutcracker' Brings Holiday Magic to Local Theaters

Thirty Reston students perform timeless classic.

Thirty Reston students ages 6 to 18 will dance in the Conservatory Ballet's annual production of the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker." From Dec. 9-13, eight performances will be held at the Reston Community Center's CenterStage with two additional performances at the Madeira School Theater on Dec. 19.

Adrian Lamoureux, a South Lakes High School student, performs several roles to include partnering with the Sugar Plum Fairy. "Partnering is demanding. Timing is everything and lifting takes strength," said Lamoureux, 14. Lamoureux, his

partner and the other advanced Conservatory students train and rehearse five to six times a week for months to get ready for the show.

A Yuletide favorite for area residents, last year's performances drew nearly 3,000 audience members. This season's production features more than 120 participants, ages 6 to 18 from the City of Alexandria and Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties.

Artistic Director Julia Redick has created a family-friendly production that includes two shortened performances on Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 13 at 12 p.m. as the per-

fect way for families to introduce young children to the power and beauty of ballet.

"The Conservatory is a performing arts school," said Redick, "and the 'Nutcracker' provides our students performance opportunities so critical to their artistic growth. It also makes ballet accessible to local children and their families."

Now, almost 12 decades after the 1892 "Nutcracker" premiere at Russia's Kirov Ballet, a Conservatory graduate will perform in the Kirov's 2009 "Nutcracker" production. In 2007, Keenan Kampa, an Oak Hill resident, was invited to be the first

American to attend the Vaganova Academy, the Kirov's dance school. "Keenan is an inspiration to many of our students who benefit from her visits and her instruction during summer camps," said Redick.

Established in 1972, the Conservatory offers early childhood, pre-professional and adult programs in ballet, flamenco, Irish and other dance forms to more than 1,200 students. Its curriculum program produces more professional ballerinas than any other pre-professional dance academy in the greater Washington area. Students have performed with numerous well-known companies including American Ballet Theater, Dance Theater of Harlem, the Bolshoi, Boston, English National, Fort Worth and Stuttgart Ballets.

Tickets

Tickets for performances can be purchased from Reston Community Center at 703-476-4500 ext. 3 and for Madeira School Theater at 703-715-8366. For more information visit conservatoryballet.com.

UPS Store Supports Literacy Program

Local elementary schools receive donations.

Thanks to the generosity of local residents, the Reston UPS Store raised more than \$5,300 for the Toys for Tots Literacy Program. All of the proceeds, which were donated locally, benefit children in Reston and the surrounding communities. More than 5,000 books were given to Dogwood, Terraset, Lake Anne and Forest Edge elementary schools, as well as the nonprofit Reston Interfaith, all of which serve economically disadvantaged children.

For every dollar donated to the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, a book is placed into the hands of a local child in need. The books were presented on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 18 at the UPS Store.

"The community's participation in the Toys for Tots Literacy Program was a key component to the success of this promotion," said UPS Store franchisee Hal Berens. "This program provides the unique opportunity to make a real impact for as little as \$1 and it's only possible because of thoughtful contri-

butions from the people in Reston." "It's nice to find companies who believe in the value of reading and the value of an educated community," said Forest Edge Elementary School Principal Frank Bensinger. "This gift enables us to give books to more students than we currently are able to help. We're very thankful to the Toys for Tots Literacy Program and the UPS Store for their generosity. I believe that businesses have as much at stake in the educational community as families. An informed and educated population is good for business and for us all."



From left are UPS Store franchisee Hal Berens, Reston Interfaith CEO Kerrie Wilson and Reston Interfaith program coordinator Theresa Rupp.

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SPORTS

South Lakes Girls Dominate

Defending regular season champion Seahawks have younger look this season.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes High girls' basketball team, coming off one of its best seasons in the program's history last year, is off to a fast 4-0 start.

Under coach Christy Winters Scott, the Seahawks won non-Northern Region games last week over both Dominion High (Sterling), 66-29, on Thursday, Dec. 3, and Heritage (Leesburg), 79-50, on Saturday, Dec. 5. Both games were part of the Dominion Tip-Off Tournament. Dominion, the host school, is a member of the Dulles District.

Prior to competing at the Tip-Off tourney, South Lakes had won scrimmage games over Park View (Sterling), 93-27, at home on Tuesday, Dec. 1, and host St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, a private school in Alexandria, 70-24, over the Thanksgiving weekend on Nov. 28.

The Seahawks have received stellar play from 6-foot-2 inch freshman forward player Zoe Beard-Fails, who scored 18 and 11 points, respectively, in the victories over Dominion and Heritage. In both wins, the Seahawks had four players score in double figures. Against the Titans of Dominion, Beard-Fails led her team in scoring, but other solid games came from freshmen guards Marlana Tremba (14 points) and Gabrielle Schultz (11), and sophomore guard Emily Lopynski (10).

In the win over Heritage in South Lakes' second game at the Tip-Off, Ashlei Sutton, a junior guard, tallied a team-high 18 points, while teammates Tremba (16), Schultz (14) and Beard-Fails all had big games as well. Senior forward Natalie Kendall contributed nine points.

South Lakes should be in the hunt for the Liberty District title this winter, along with defending district tournament champion Madison. A year ago, the Seahawks captured the regular season district championship before losing to Madison at the tournament semifinals. Then, at the Northern Region tournament, South Lakes' season ended with a 53-48 first round loss to South County. For the season, South Lakes finished 19-4. The regular season district crown was the first for the program since 1999.

Last year's team was led by senior standouts Kelcyn Manurs and Kacey Liscomb. Manurs, the team's point guard, earned District Player of the Year honors, while Liscomb, who played a guard-forward position, was named Second Team All-District. Another good season a year ago came from frontcourt player Lachelle Wallace, an All-District Honorable Mention selection who was also a senior.

This year's Seahawks are young across the board with just two seniors and two juniors. The team's 12th graders are Jasmine Jones, who served as a team tri-captain last year along with Manurs and Liscomb, and Kendall.

This Friday night, Dec. 11, South Lakes will host cross-town rival Herndon (2-0) at 7. The Hornets are under coach Reggie Barnes.

OAKTON HIGH, part of the Concorde District, is coming off a brilliant 2008-09 campaign in which it



South Lakes head coach Christy Winters Scott led the Seahawks to the regular season district crown a year ago.

won its first 30 games before falling in the state AAA finals to Princess Anne of Virginia Beach. The Cougars of last year, champions of both their district and region, earned coach Fred Priester's admiration.

"Everybody doubted them except themselves and me," said Priester, following awards ceremonies after last year's 71-61 state finals loss to Princess Anne at Richmond's Virginia Commonwealth University. "People said we're too small and too slow. But we're 30-1 and people should remember that."

Oakton was led by its three senior team tri-captains — Erin McGartland, Brianna Johnson and Sasha Borojeni — last year. Both McGartland, a gritty, undersized front court player who scored a team-high 18 points in the state championship game loss, and Johnson earned all-region tournament honors after helping guide the Cougars to the region title with a finals win over T.C. Williams.

While Oakton lost lots of firepower and leadership with the graduation departures of the trio, it returns the Coyer sisters, sophomore backcourt players Caroline and Katherine Coyer. Caroline, one of the top players in the region last year as a ninth grader, scored 21 points in the region finals win over the Titans and earned region tourney MVP honors. Katherine was a key player off the bench for the Cougars. Also back this winter is returning starting shooting guard Zora Stephenson, now a junior.

Stephenson scored a team-high 16 points in Oakton's season opener Friday, Dec. 4, a lopsided 79-27 win over Pulaski County (Dublin, Va.) at the Fairfax High Tournament. Oakton then defeated the tournament host Fairfax Rebels team, 69-50, the following day as well. Caroline Coyer scored 13 points in the win over Pulaski while Corinne Holland contributed eight points.

Oakton, which was scheduled to play at South County on Tuesday of this week, will travel to Washington-Lee in Arlington this Friday night.



The 12-under Virginia Xplosion baseball team captured the Old Dominion Baseball League title this fall.

SPORTS NOTES

The 12-under Virginia Xplosion powered its way to a travel baseball championship with an 11-5 victory over the Fauquier Mustangs in the finals of the Old Dominion Baseball League (ODBL) fall playoffs. The local team, stationed in Sterling, is made up of players from throughout the Northern Virginia area. The tournament took place Nov. 7 and 8 at Nokesville's Valley View Park. The title was the Xplosion's first after three previous trips to the ODBL championship game.

"Good players make good coaches," said Xplosion Manager Kenny Burch.

The Xplosion pounced on the Mustangs early, scoring three times in the first inning on Mike Smith's run-scoring blast and Joe DiConsiglio's two-RBI single. Pitchers Jett Manning, Smith and Forest Wagner never looked back, stifling a strong Mustangs squad.

The relentless Xplosion attack was sparked by Dylan Robertson's booming two-run

double. Wagner and Smith both collected three hits. Drew Daczkowski added a hit and scored two runs. Devin Vigneault iced the game with a run-scoring knock in the final inning.

In the semifinals, pitchers Wagner and DiConsiglio shut down the Alexandria Heat, 11-1. Lead-off batter Manning paced the Xplosion offense with a 4-for-4 performance. Burch and Daczkowski both slugged two hits. In early rounds, the Xplosion bested the Stafford Titans, 6-2. Reid contributed two hits and five stolen bases. Catcher Koerner capped a 9-1 win over Western Loudoun by gunning out a base-stealer in the last inning.

Throughout the tournament, the Xplosion received big performances from Corey Burch, Colin Reid and Trent Koerner. Injured Xplosion star Brian Hopkins returned to action after missing much of the season.

The Xplosion assistant coaches are Mike Hopkins, Marty Reid and Todd Vigneault.



The Reston U-10 girls travel basketball team won the Braddock Road Youth Club 2009 Thanksgiving Tournament over the holiday weekend. The team, competing in Division 2, was undefeated in the tournament. The Reston squad is coached by Candice Snell and assistant coach George Taplin.

NEWS

Tax District Approval Expected

FROM PAGE 6

In all, the second tax district is expected to raise \$330 million for the rail to Dulles project. A similar tax district, which raised \$400 million, was set up to contribute money to the development of the stations already under construction in Tysons Corner and Reston.

Fairfax County needs to find another source of funding to provide the final \$120 million it is expected to contribute to the development of rail to Dulles, though the need is not pressing. Money from the two tax districts could adequately fund the project's construction for the next two years, said county staff.

The structure of the second tax district is a little different from the first. From the beginning, landowners in the first tax district were expected to pay 22 cent per \$100 of assessed land value. But property owners in the second tax district will pay 5 cents per \$100 of assessed land value at first and then see a five cent increase each year up to 20 cents per \$100 of assessed value until the stations open.

After the stations are fully functional, the landowners will pay 25 cents per \$100 in assessed value if they are in the second tax district.

BUSINESS LEADERS said the "phase in" approach was used in the second tax district because of the economic climate. Several landowners have already take financial hits this year, they said.

In exchange for agreeing to a new tax, several landowners and business groups asked that the Fairfax supervisors be flexible and speedy about approving density increases in the areas surrounding the Dulles corridor.

Also, the landowners asked that Fairfax County put pressure on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to keep fees low on the Dulles Toll Road. The airports authority controls the toll road and is also using toll road revenue to help pay for the project.

Springfield supervisor Patrick Herrity said he is concerned about rising tolls and worried that the issue of whether they go up or not is entirely out of the county's control.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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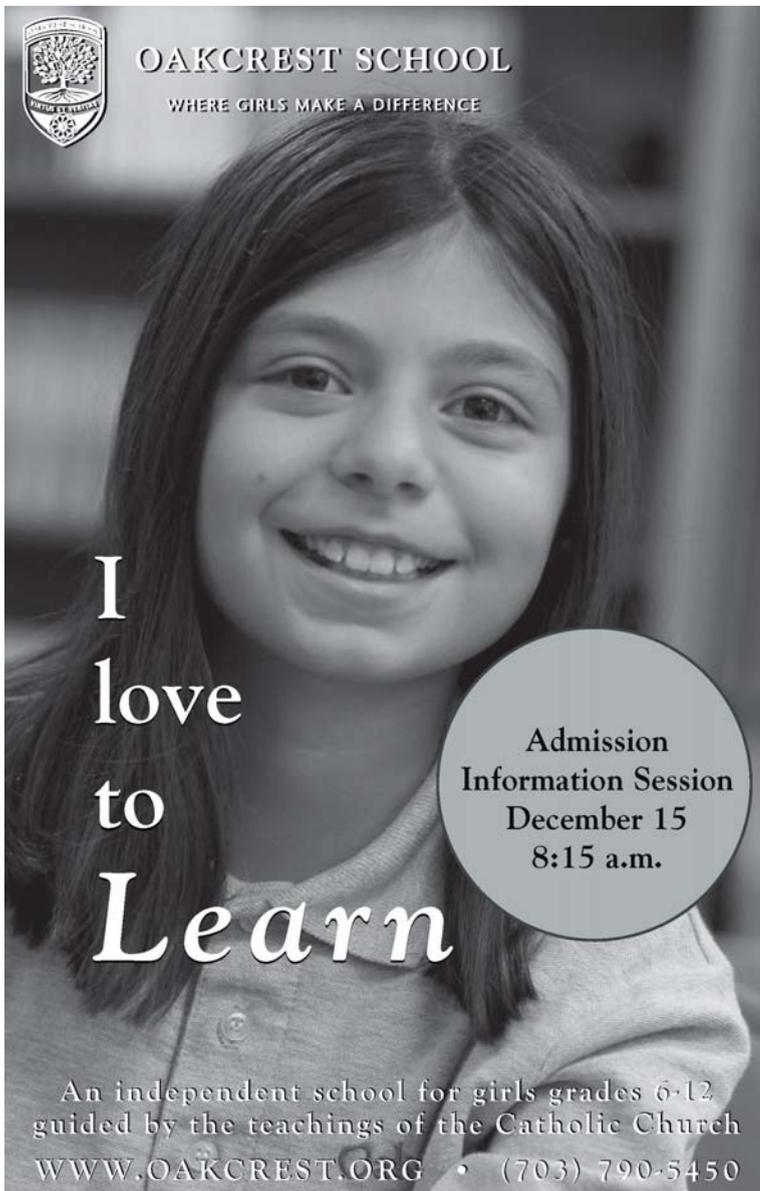
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11800 SUNSET HILLS RD#707	2	2	0		RESTON	\$345,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		CARLTON HOUSE
1579 POPLAR GROVE DR	3	2	1		RESTON	\$331,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
12000#138 MARKET ST	20	2	0		HERNDON	\$330,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SAVOY AT RESTON TOWN CNTR
12001 MARKET ST #219	2	2	0		RESTON	\$326,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		MRKT ST AT TOWN CNTR COND
12024 TALIESIN PL #22	2	2	0		RESTON	\$320,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		OAK PARK
11241 SILENTWOOD LN	3	2	1		RESTON	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.02	RESTON
12024 TALIESIN PL #32	2	2	0		RESTON	\$319,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		OAK PARK
1676 BAYFIELD WAY	3	2	1		RESTON	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.05	RESTON
1656 SIERRA WOODS DR	3	1	1		RESTON	\$302,500	Townhouse	0.05	RESTON
1724 LAKE SHORE CREST DR#25	2	2	0		RESTON	\$302,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		EDGEWATER AT TOWN CNTR
11170 FOREST EDGE DR	4	3	1		RESTON	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON
11990 MARKET ST #1418	1	1	0		RESTON	\$300,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON
1716 LAKE SHORE CREST DR#25	2	2	0		RESTON	\$290,500	Garden 1-4 Floors		EDGEWATER AT TOWN CNTR
1631 VALENCIA WAY	4	2	2		RESTON	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON
1860 STRATFORD PARK PL#206	2	2	0		RESTON	\$289,500	Garden 1-4 Floors		STRATFORD
1705 LAKE SHORE CREST DR#25	2	2	0		RESTON	\$283,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		EDGEWATER AT TOWN CNTR
1613 SIERRA WOODS DR	3	2	1		RESTON	\$282,500	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
1614 CHIMNEY HOUSE RD#1614	2	1	0		RESTON	\$280,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		LAKE ANNE OF RESTON
12000 MARKET ST #445	1	1	0		RESTON	\$280,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SAVOY AT RESTON TOWN CNTR
1329 GARDEN WALL CT #508	2	2	0		RESTON	\$272,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		BALDWIN GROVE
2422 RIDGEMAN CT	3	2	1		RESTON	\$267,500	Townhouse	0.03	HUNTERS SQUARE
2190 CARTWRIGHT PL	2	2	1		RESTON	\$265,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
2418 WANDA WAY	4	3	1		RESTON	\$265,000	Townhouse	0.03	DEEPWOOD
1525 CHURCH HILL PL#1525	2	1	1		RESTON	\$264,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		HAMPTON POINTE
11800 SUNSET HILLS RD#304	1	1	0		RESTON	\$262,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		CARLTON HOUSE
1724 LAKE SHORE CREST DR#34	1	1	0		RESTON	\$255,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		EDGEWATER AT TOWN CNTR
2156 CARTWRIGHT PL	3	1	2		RESTON	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
2224 COPPERSMITH SQ	3	2	1		RESTON	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
1316 NORTHGATE SQ	3	2	0		RESTON	\$253,000	Townhouse		RESTON
2252 COPPERSMITH SQ	3	1	1		RESTON	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON
11713B KARBON HILL CT #B	2	2	0		RESTON	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		BRISTOL HOUSE
1971 VILLARIDGE DR #A	2	1	0		RESTON	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		VILLARIDGE
1958B VILLARIDGE DR#1958B	2	1	0		RESTON	\$240,100	Garden 1-4 Floors		VILLARIDGE
11603 VANTAGE HILL RD#22C	3	2	0		RESTON	\$240,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		VANTAGE HILL
11232 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ#134	3	1	1		RESTON	\$240,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		CHESTNUT GROVE
1371 GARDEN WALL CIR #713	2	1	0		RESTON	\$238,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		BALDWIN GROVE
1657 PARKCREST CIR #300	2	2	0		RESTON	\$228,465	Garden 1-4 Floors		BENTANA PARK
12012 TALIESIN PL #14	1	1	0		RESTON	\$225,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		OAK PARK
1426 NORTHGATE SQ#26/22B	2	2	0		RESTON	\$224,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		NORTHGATE
1980 VILLARIDGE DR #B	1	1	0		RESTON	\$210,115	Garden 1-4 Floors		VILLARIDGE
1610 CHIMNEY HOUSE RD#1610	1	1	0		RESTON	\$204,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		LAKE ANNE OF RESTON
11420 WASHINGTON PLZ W#11420	2	1	0		RESTON	\$201,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		LAKE ANNE OF RESTON
2264 COVENT GARDENS CT	4	2	1		RESTON	\$200,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
1641 PARKCREST CIR#7B/101	1	1	0		RESTON	\$180,000	Patio Home		BENTANA PARK
11240 CHESTNUT GROVE SQ#258	2	1	1		RESTON	\$179,500	Garden 1-4 Floors		CHESTNUT GROVE
11806 BRETON CT #32B	2	1	1		RESTON	\$177,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		HUNTERS WOODS VILLAGE
12195 SANIBEL CT	3	1	1		RESTON	\$170,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
2283 EMERALD HEIGHTS CT	3	2	0		RESTON	\$165,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
2250 COVENT GARDENS CT	2	2	0		RESTON	\$164,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
2306 EMERALD HEIGHTS CT	3	2	2		RESTON	\$157,900	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
1556 NORTHGATE SQ#56/11B	2	1	0		RESTON	\$155,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		NORTHGATE
2210 SPRINGWOOD DR #207	2	2	0		RESTON	\$150,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SPRINGWOOD
11965 BARREL COOPER CT	3	2	2		RESTON	\$146,700	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON
2067 ROYAL FERN CT#37/12B	2	1	0		RESTON	\$130,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SOUTHGATE
11605 STONEVIEW SQ#65/22C	3	2	0		RESTON	\$130,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SHADOWOOD
2237 CASTLE ROCK SQ #21C	3	1	1		RESTON	\$129,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		SHADOWOOD
11606 STONEVIEW SQ#66/11C	3	2	0		RESTON	\$127,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SHADOWOOD
11658 STONEVIEW SQ#98/21C	3	2	0		RESTON	\$120,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SHADOWOOD
2050 ROYAL FERN CT #22A	1	1	0		RESTON	\$116,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SOUTHGATE
2228 CASTLE ROCK SQ #21C	3	2	0		RESTON	\$110,000	Other		SHADOWOOD
2236 CASTLE ROCK SQ #2B	2	2	0		RESTON	\$109,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SHADOWOOD
2317 FREETOWN CT #21/11C	3	1	0		RESTON	\$101,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		GLENVALE

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To have community events listed in the Connection, send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

1593-1595 Spring Hill Road, Vienna. The Committee advises the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority on issues related to the management, improvement and expansion of the Dulles Corridor, as well as future changes to toll rates on the Dulles Toll Road to fund roadway improvements and the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. 703-417-8370.

a.m. on the second Saturday of every other month, at United Bank, 1801 Reston Parkway, Reston. The RAC works improve accessibility for mobility-impaired persons in Reston. Contact Ken Fredgren, 703-391-9019 or fredgren.k@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Marymount University Graduate Business Programs Information Session. 6:30 p.m. at MU's Reston Center, 1861 Wiehle Ave., Reston. The Essential M.B.A., the M.A. in Human Resource Management, and the M.S. in Management. Register at 703-284-5902 or www.marymount.edu/infosession.

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. 9:30 a.m. at 11624 Sourwood Lane, Reston. Contact Margo, 703-620-9054. www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Reston Newcomers and Neighbors Club Holiday Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at McCormick and Schmick's, Reston Town Center. Speaker is local children's author Sharon K. Solomon. Her book, A Walk with Grandpa, will be available for purchase and signing. GRNNC will collect books for age 5 years or younger for donation to Reston Interfaith. 703-433-2754.

Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting. 1 p.m. at the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Office,

FRIDAY/DEC. 11

Northern Virginia Technology Council. 7 a.m. at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Stefan Jacoby, President & CEO of the Volkswagen Group of America will speak on "Driving the Future through Innovation and Responsibility," discuss the Volkswagen Group's long-term growth strategy in the U.S. and the role sustainability will play in the automotive industry's future. www.nvtc.org/events/ritzcarlton.php or www.volkswagengroupamerica.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

The Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) meets are at 10

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce new and prospective members lunch, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Dulles Regional Chamber's Chantilly Office, 3901 Centerview Drive, Suite R, Chantilly. Extensive networking on site; attendees are asked to bring business cards. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration required at 571-323-5300 or dullesherndonregionalchamber.org.

Dulles Airport Manager's Annual Update. At the Westin Washington Dulles Airport, 2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon. Reception 11:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. Airport Manager Chris Browne's annual review of how Dulles Airport fared in 2009 and what is coming in 2010. Committee for Dulles Members in advance \$45; at the door \$50. Non-members in advance \$55; at the door \$60. www.committeefordulles.org.



First prizewinner Caitlyn Lang, her family and her art teacher Nancy Kocen.

Winners of Thanksgiving Card Challenge Honored

Every year around Thanksgiving K3 Construction Group and the Board of Directors of the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) team up to sponsor the Thanksgiving Card Challenge. This is the fourth year that K3 has sponsored this competition and the third year that they have invited schools who participate in GRACE's Art in the Schools program. This year's contest winner was Caitlyn Ling, a fifth grader at Greenbriar West Elementary School. She said it felt "really good" to win. Her submission highlighted the family and togetherness aspects of Thanksgiving instead of the food aspect as many of the other sub-

missions did and what made it unique also made it a winner.

Caitlyn wanted to thank her family and her art teacher Nancy Kocen for all of her help. Keith Clark, the principal and vice president of the K3 Construction Group, along with taking pictures with the top prize winners also presented John Alciati, president and CEO of GRACE, with a donation. GRACE and K3 have plenty of history as it was K3 that did all of the construction when GRACE moved to their new location in Reston Town Center. The event drew many participants and their families.

— BRANDON MENDONCA



Keith Clark of the K3 Construction Group with second prize winner Osman Ahmed

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Mind Games



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

First, the good news (make that the Tony-the-Tiger, GREAT NEWS!), the results of my first diagnostic scans (M.R.I. Brain, CT upper torso and Full Body Bone) in four months showed my tumors are "Essentially stable," which I can live with (pun intended). Medically speaking/layman interpreting this means, movement and/or growth not indicated (I'm paraphrasing). Over the phone (how I received the news) my oncologist's nurse characterized these results as "Good news," (oncologists and/or their nurses are not prone to hyperbole). Nevertheless, a day later when I saw my oncologist at The Infusion Center (for my every-three-week chemotherapy) semi unexpectedly, he walked over to where I was sitting in my BarcaLounger while being infused, gave me a big smile, gestured two thumbs up and said, "You're doing great!" Now that's how you make a cancer patient feel like smiling.

And smile I did, and then I called, texted, e-mailed Team Lourie and shared the story; smiles and atta boys all the way around. It was a super day and an unexpected but most appreciated response from my oncologist. However, there is bad news, or rather good news which must be understood and placed in its proper place/context.

As I found/find myself talking/thinking/writing about this "good news," I have to realize that I'm not out of the woods, yet, by any means. In fact, I'm still in the woods, and will be there for the rest of my life. The question is, whether I'll be able to see the forest save for the trees, all the while remaining under that semi cover of wooded darkness. Meaning, I haven't turned a corner, I just haven't fallen off a cliff. All of which I can live with (hopefully for much longer than my initial diagnosis/prognosis), but in so living with it, what I am living with is, uncertainty. Not so much daily (I'm over that kind of mental anguish), but definitely quarterly when these scans are cycled to schedule again.

Unless I feel some symptoms, which diagnosis to date – and to a lesser degree, chemotherapy to date, I haven't/I don't. Pretty much what I have to go by (live with) are the results of these scans. They are the tale of the tape. Whatever I feel, whatever I think, whatever happens to me and my body; good, bad or indifferent, will be diagnostically confirmed and/or explained on a quarterly basis (by these scans), unless some more obvious circumstance occurs.

Now the task becomes to try to trick/deceive/obfuscate my brain into minding its own business (for its own good of course), sticking to the few facts in hand, not exaggerating the positive – or the negative, reports either, quite frankly, and the most difficult challenge, trying to find some intellectual balance between the known and the unknown.

As such, face value becomes the order of the day; heck, not just the day, but the week, the month, the quarter, etc. I can't get too high or too low. I must remain positive and only worry about the things I can control and try (and it's a HUGE try) not to worry about the things I can't control. I must learn to take the good with the bad and perhaps even more importantly, learn to take the bad with the good.

This column has been yet another attempt in an ongoing effort, to find peace, serenity, understanding, tolerance, patience and acceptance of my situation; stage IV lung cancer. Every day it's the same thing, only different. Yet every day matters. For the time being, I'm OK. The news is, not bad. It may – or may not be – temporary. Only time will tell. But so far, so good.

It's just hard not knowing what's likely to happen next.

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

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Nothing is too small to know, and nothing too big to attempt.
-William Van Horne

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Looking to intensify your fitness level during your walks around beautiful Lake Anne without going over the top? Do you need that extra push with some added variety? We will walk all year long. First class is complimentary. All fitness levels welcome. Certified and insured. For more info, e-mail lakeannefitness@gmail.com.

21 Announcements

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90 Days No Monthly Payments & No Interest If Paid Within 90 Days!

Building Size	Cost	Monthly
24 x 32 x 10	\$7,500	\$112.50
30 x 40 x 10	\$9,500	\$142.50
30 x 50 x 12	\$14,000	\$210.00
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OPINION Social Security

BY JACK KENNY
PAST PRESIDENT, REPUBLICAN CLUB OF
GREATER RESTON



A DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW

Within the last two weeks, the Social Security Administration finished mailing out the annual "review" letter giving us the good news of what 2010's benefits will be. The first paragraph informed us that the law (read Congress) does not permit an increase in benefits when there was no increase in the cost of living. Since we are in a full recession and, given the present policies of the Administration and Congress, actions are likely to stay there for quite a while. These actions are reminiscent of the 1930s when FDR did pretty much the same things to lift the country out of our financial difficulties. Only a World War II, requiring vast sums of our national wealth were spent, did we put everybody to work suffering the loss of many, many lives.

The next paragraph gets more interesting: Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) will increase. Because Medicare law (another Congressional action) requires some people to pay a higher premium for their Medicare Part B coverage based on their income. Do you smell means testing? Of course. The Internal Revenue Service told the Social Security Administration how much money each of us made last year. SSA's words: "Based on what we call your modified adjusted gross income or MAGI," [we] are required to pay an additional amount. The Congress has cleverly slipped in a tax on our tax-exempt interest income. Thus, depending on your MAGI, as they describe this formula, we pay back into the government as much as \$243.10 more for Medicare Part B if you made over \$214,000 in 2008.

Given that when FDR initially proposed Social Security, it was; 1) to be voluntary,

2) based on the first \$1,500 of income, and 3) would not be taxed. Well, LBJ certainly tossed those promises. Ever smell a bait and switch into arguably the largest Ponzi scheme ever thought of.

The letter goes on to inform us of our monthly benefit for deductions. The deductions include a standard Medicare premium plus an additional hit for our MAGI and a voluntary [income] tax withholding. Yes, we pay an income tax on our Social Security benefit. Out came the little pocket calculator and presto. In this writers' case, 36 percent of the monthly Social Security benefit will be kept by the Government.

Think of how easily these actions were slipped by us in Congressional action and compare them to the present debate on the drive to enact ObamaCare. Have we received any information from the Social Security Administration on how much the proposed national healthcare legislation will take from our monthly benefit? Can you imagine that 36 percent quickly growing to 50 percent or more in the next few years to cover the expected deficit?

We may wonder what started all this. Well, it goes back to 1944 and FDR's State of the Union address when he proposed a utopian dream — a second Bill of Rights. Included in that proposal was: [the right] to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health; to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness ... etc. (Thank you, Mark Levin.)

In 11 months, we will have the opportunity to restore some semblance of sanity to our Congress, and by extension to the Administration. It will be a long 11 months.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

- ♦ Whitfield, Wayne Edward (R), KY-1, \$1,252,030
- ♦ Buyer, Stephen Earle (R), IN-4, \$1,264,527
- ♦ Burgess, Michael Clifton (R), TX-26, \$1,270,423
- ♦ Sessions, Pete (R), TX-32, \$1,424,900
- ♦ Deal, John Nathan (R), GA-9, \$1,503,955
- ♦ Gingrey, John Phillip (R), GA-11, \$1,867,943
- ♦ Camp, David Lee (R), MI-4, \$1,553,605
- ♦ Cantor, Eric Ivan R VA-7 \$2,213,028
- ♦ Price, Tom (R), GA-6, \$2,397,977

- ♦ Blunt, Roy D. (R), MO-7, \$2,423,886
- ♦ Barton, Joe Linus (R), TX-6, \$2,719,871
- ♦ Boehner, John Andrew (R), OH-8, \$2,036,770

They deserve to receive a message that Americans don't want lobbyists running our country.

Susan Merk
Reston

OBITUARY

Curtis Lee Watson, 50, of Herndon Dies

Curtis Lee Watson, 50, of Herndon died on Dec. 4, at his residence.

Survivors include his wife Ester E. Watson, daughters Tisha Posey of Georgia, Stephanie Wallace of Fairfax and Lindsey Newman of Herndon and son Arnaz Newman of Herndon, sisters Peggy Watson of Sterling; Josephine Williams (Wayne) of Sterling, and Lillian Johnson of Manassas; sister-in-law Mary Keating Watson of Reston; brothers Kent Williams of Maryland, Carl Watson (Doris) of Culpeper, Va. and

Franklin Johnson of Manassas, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and close friends.

He was a member Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Herndon.

Wake (viewing) on Saturday, Dec. 12, 10-11 a.m., at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Herndon followed by funeral services at 11 a.m. from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Arrangements were by Lyles Funeral Service serving Northern Virginia.

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21 Announcements

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Featuring 25 Properties - Bank Owned et al
Homes... Commercial... Development Properties

Some selling ABSOLUTE! - Financing Available to qualified buyers
Appraised from \$12,000 to an over \$1.7 million oceanfront home
Auction Site: The Bank of Currituck Community Room, 6670 Caratoke Hwy., Grandy, NC
Open Houses: December 12th & 13th - 2pm to 4pm
For details: www.rogersrealty.com
\$5,000 certified funds required. 10% total deposit, 10% buyers prem. "AS IS".

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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Infrared Miracle Heater
CUT YOUR HEATING BILLS UP TO 50%
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Reston Community Center



Save-The-Date! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Weekend Are We Keeping the Promise?



**Keynote Speaker
Sheila C. Johnson**

**Monday, January 18
10:30 a.m.
RCC Hunters Woods**

January 16-18, 2010



The Reston 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration weekend will present a variety of commemorative events including: a commemorative march, keynote speaker Sheila C. Johnson, workshop discussions, service opportunities, youth activities, an MLK art exhibit by local elementary schools students and an art reception. **All events are free and open to the public.**

Visit our website at www.restoncommunitycenter.com for more details on the weekend celebration, or contact Kevin Danaher, Community Events Director, at 703-390-6166.

RCC December Art Exhibits

Lake Anne

Hunters Woods



**Annual Gifts from the
HeART
To benefit Reston
Interfaith
December 1 –
January 4**



**Abstract Acrylics on
Canvas
Jacqueline Albano
December 1 –
December 31**

MONDAY MOVIES

55 and older

FREE!

Featuring:

CHARADE (1963)

Monday, December 21

9:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

the CenterStage at RCC Hunters Woods

Free continental breakfast provided



The movie's tagline, "You can expect the unexpected when they play..." encompasses the many memorable twists and turns in the plot. *Charade* is classic romantic comedy and mysterious thriller all in one.



Reston Community Center
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston VA 20191
www.restoncommunitycenter.com

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