

# Reston CONNECTION

## Excelling in 'Nutcracker'

NEWS, PAGE 8

Rebecca Mattern, an eighth grade student at Langston Hughes Middle School, performed several solos, including Snow Queen, pictured, Cupid, Sara Doll and Chinese Tea in the Reston Conservatory Ballet's annual production of 'The Nutcracker.'



## 2010 in Reston

NEWS, PAGE 3

## A Lesson Against Hate

SCHOOLS, PAGE 10

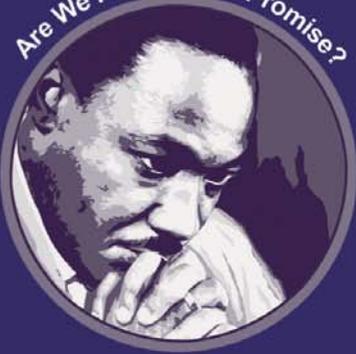
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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12

Are We Keeping the Promise?



# Reston 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

All events are free and open to the public.

## Schedule of Events

**Saturday, January 16 at 6 p.m.**  
**RCC Hunters Woods**

Musical Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Reston Community Orchestra and featured guests MetroSingers, Jasmine Muhammad and Beverly Cosham.



**Sunday, January 17 at 4 p.m.**  
**Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation**  
1441 Wiehle Avenue Reston, VA 20190

“Voices of Inspiration” 20th Anniversary Program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Monday, January 18 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**RCC Hunters Woods (unless otherwise noted)**

### Commemorative March

9 a.m.  
Southgate Community Center to RCC Hunters Woods. Free shuttle to from Hunters Woods to Southgate Community Center starting at 8:15. a.m.

### Workshops (led by Reston Interfaith)

12 p.m.  
Homelessness  
Community Service Project  
Volunteer Fair  
Panel discussion featuring Rev. Doug Smith, Sheila C. Johnson, and Supervisor Catherine Hudgins



### Especially for Youth

10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Arts, crafts, and enrichment activity stations for children in grades 1-6. Registration required. Reg. #704717-0A

### Art Reception for Reston Elementary Schools

2 p.m.  
Reception for the art work done by Reston elementary school students based on the history of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement



### Keynote Address and Community Service Awards

10:30 a.m.  
Keynote address given by Sheila C. Johnson.

Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) for a complete schedule of events, or contact Kevin Danaher, Community Events Director, at 703-390-6166.



Reston Community Center  
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston VA 20191  
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# NEWS

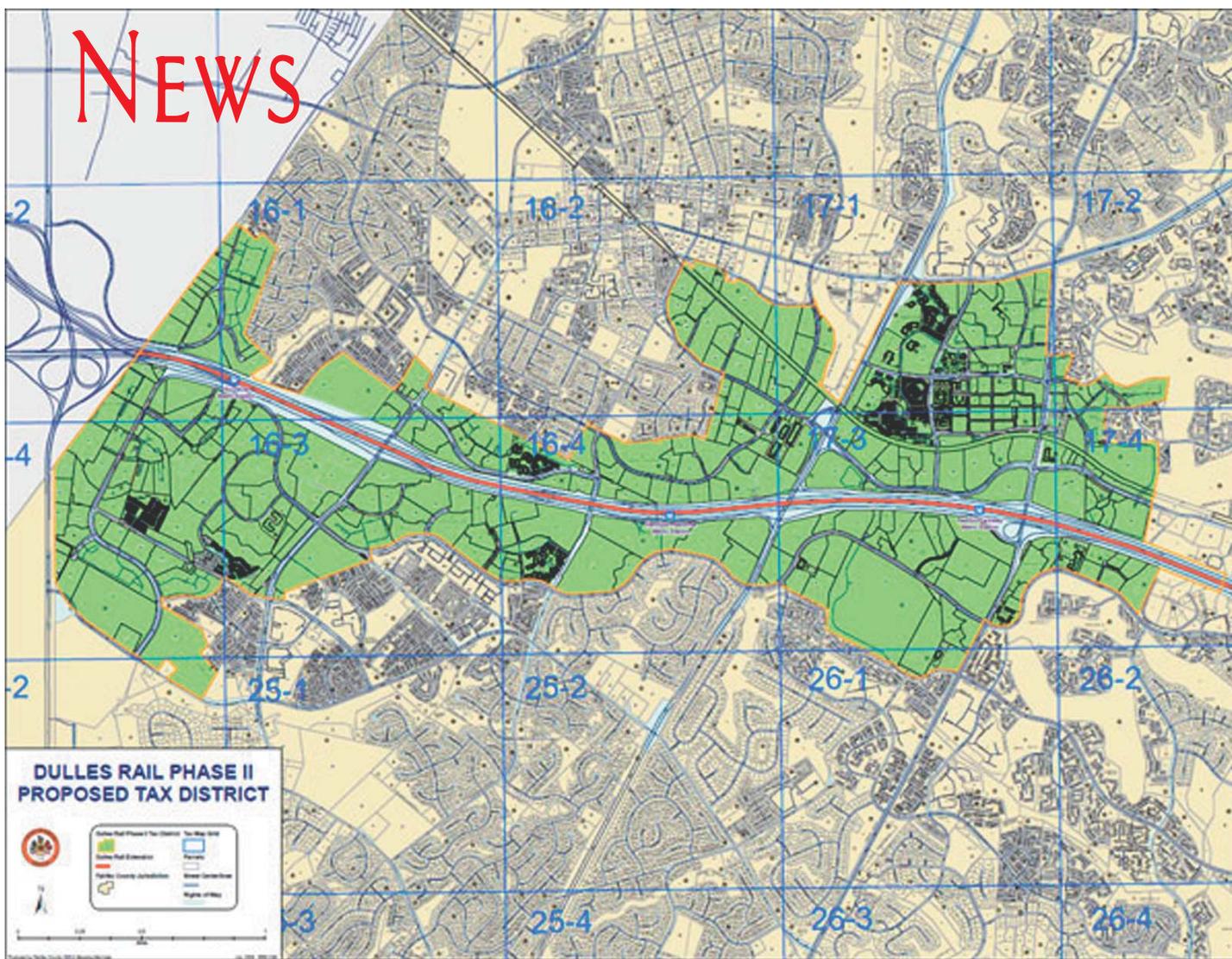


PHOTO COURTESY WESTERN ALLIANCE FOR RAIL TO DULLES (WARD)

The newly created special tax district will go into effect this year, helping to raise money for Metro rail construction. The tax only applies to commercial properties.

## VIEWPOINTS

### What is your wish for the Reston community in 2010?



Anne Wellborn, Retired, Reston  
 "I'm looking forward to the Metro improving and going to Dulles."



Miriam Rodriguez, Weight Watchers Leader, Reston  
 "That everybody prosper."



Kelvin Ruffin, IT, Reston  
 "[I wish] that the Fairfax Connector buses would run later. Especially when I

work in D.C., coming back, you got to make it in time so that would be my wish."



Pamela Vlcek, Boutique Worker, Reston

"Probably that they get some type of train service to Reston and also that people continue to be employed and that the year goes great for the next decade."



Jamelia McDonald, CASA Supervisor and Pre-School Teacher, Reston

"I would hope that the prices for the Fairfax Connector and whatever services for transportation ... the prices stay and do not fluctuate higher. That is a huge concern of mine. I want it to be accessible to everyone in the community."

— ALLISON AUSTIN

# 2010 in Reston

## Issues to follow in the year ahead.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
 THE CONNECTION

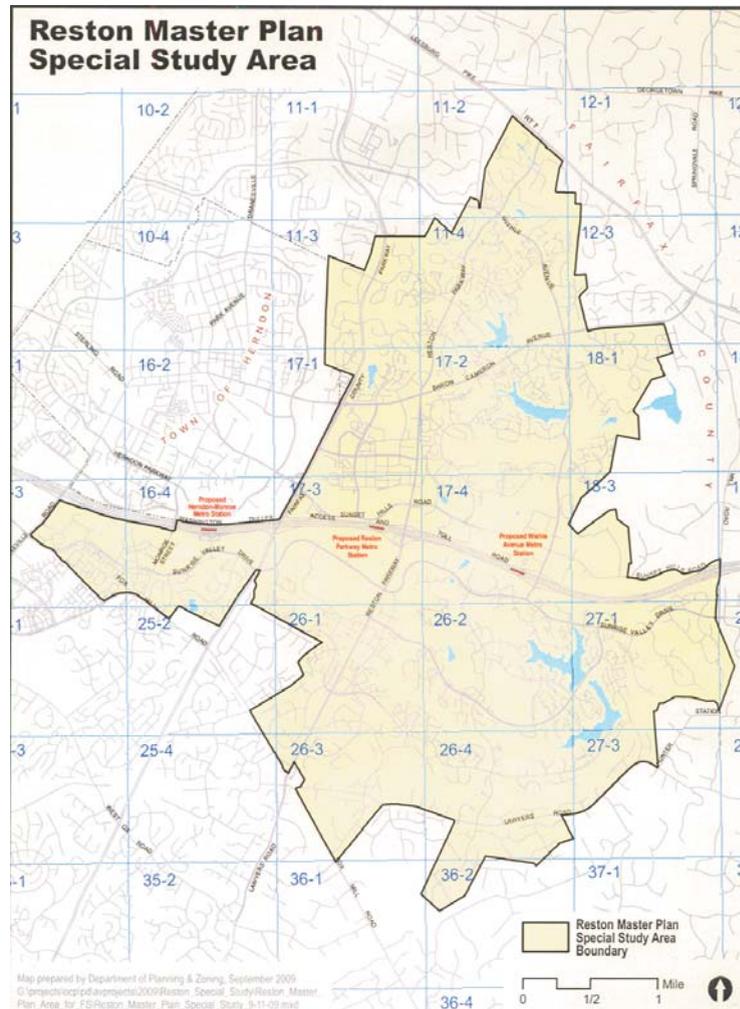
### REVISITING RESTON PLAN

The Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force held its first meeting in December and will continue to meet into 2011. The group's initial meeting followed a county-sponsored "land-use college" conducted in late summer and early fall to educate residents in zoning lingo and process.

The task force will first examine uses in the Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG) that surrounds the Dulles Toll Road. The covenants of the RCIG have not allowed residential or many commercial uses in the Dulles Corridor, but with Metro coming down the center of the toll road, those rules are likely to be thrown out to allow mixed-use development around the planned stations. This discussion is to last through the summer of this year, with officials hoping for public hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in November and December and a decision on the task force's recommendations by the end of the year.

In September, the task force is to begin reviewing the plan for the larger part of Reston that is zoned as a planned residential community (PRC), particularly the village centers. Lake Anne Village Center, how-

DRAWING CONTRIBUTED  
**The Reston Master Plan Special Study will review plans for all of Reston that is zoned as a planned residential community (PRC), as well as the Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG) that runs along the toll road.**



ever, will be left out of the discussion, as a master plan for the development was put in place last year. Final decisions on any changes to the residential portion of the community are expected sometime in 2011.

The task force is made up of representatives from landowners, businesses and citizen groups. Community meetings and work

SEE 2010, PAGE 10

## Robbery at 7-Eleven Store

An armed man entered the 7-Eleven store located at 2303 Soapstone Drive on Monday, Dec. 28 around 3:30 a.m. and robbed two employees. The suspect displayed a gun, demanded money and fled with an unknown amount of cash and other property. There were no injuries.

The suspect was described as black, about 6 feet tall and approximately 250 pounds, with black hair. He was wearing a black hat, black pants, and a green jacket. He had a gray cloth covering his face.

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

## Work Begins at Future Wiehle Avenue Station

As of Monday, Jan. 4, the left through lane of the westbound Dulles International Airport Access Highway (DIAAH) closed so construction crews can install caissons for the future Wiehle Avenue Metro station. Caissons are concrete shafts placed underground that serve as pier foundations to support at-grade and aerial track. This work is scheduled to take place Mondays through Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., and is expected to last approximately one month.

Intermittent lane closures of both the DIAAH and the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) can also be expected between Hunter Mill Road and Wiehle for concrete barrier installations.

## GRACE Presents Three Focus Exhibitions

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is presenting three Focus Exhibitions: Currents featuring Joseph Barbaccia's fantastical, sequined sculptures, Unintentional Drawings comprising Craig Kraft's experimental, neon sculptures, and Judy Southerland's mixed media, narrative prints in Borderland.

An opening reception will be Saturday, Jan. 9, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The artists will talk about their work at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming events include:

- ❖ Super Studio! Hands-On Workshops, for ages 8-12, Mondays, Jan. 11 and Feb. 8, 3:30-5 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Reston Community Center

- ❖ Appetite for Art: Contemporary Art Series for Seniors. Mondays, Feb. 1 and 8, from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon.

For registration information visit [www.restonarts.org/education](http://www.restonarts.org/education).

## Expanded Softball Opportunities for Reston Girls

Girls in the Reston area, ages 6 to 16, who want to play Little League regulation softball with full rights and privileges to championship play, are invited to participate in the newly expanded Great Falls Little League Softball program, which is based at the Nike Park complex on Route 7 and Utterback Store Road, adjacent to Forestville Elementary School.

Through agreements with local Little League organizations which are not using their softball charters, the Great Falls Little League Softball program welcomes girls to come and learn the sport, develop their skills, and take part in age-appropriate, competitive softball.

All levels of play are covered: Coach Pitch (5-7), AA (7-9), AAA (9-10), Majors (10-12), and Seniors (13-16). No previous experience is required, and girls of all skill levels are encouraged to participate.

Registration is open as of Jan. 1, 2010 at <http://gflittleleague.org>. Tryouts for AA/AAA/Majors/Seniors will be Saturday, March 6 at Diamond Sports Training in Sterling. For additional information on the Great Falls softball program, including additional information on tryouts, see <http://www.gflsoftball.org>.

# Deeper Cuts for Schools?

Freezing state funding would add \$50 million to the schools' projected budget shortfall of \$100 million to \$200 million.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**Budget cuts at West Potomac High (pictured above) and other Fairfax schools could be worse than expected if Virginia General Assembly members from other parts of the commonwealth refuse to change a state funding formula.**

The Fairfax County School Board was already discussing the elimination of elementary school foreign language instruction, most full-day kindergarten classes and the majority of the county's summer school program as a way to cope with a projected budget shortfall of \$100 million to \$200 million during the 2010-2011 school year.

Now, they may have to come up with a longer list of program cuts thanks to Gov. Tim Kaine's latest state budget proposal, announced in December.

Kaine (D) recommended freezing the state education funding formula, a move that would result in Fairfax schools losing an additional \$50 million to \$60 million in financial help from Richmond during the next school year.

Fairfax County already provides the majority of its school system's budget. In 2010 for example, the locality covered approximately 73 percent of Fairfax Public Schools \$2.2 billion operating budget.

If Fairfax County wants to make up for a state funding cut of that magnitude, the local Board of Supervisors would have to raise the local property tax rate approximately 2.5 to three cents this spring.

Fairfax's foreign language in elementary schools program costs about \$2.5 million and the foreign language immersion program costs about \$2.1 million annually. The school system spent just under \$5 million on traditional summer school and about \$30 million on full-day kindergarten this year.

"If we had \$50 million, we might be able to avoid an increase in class size," said school board member Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill District).

**VIRGINIA'S** education funding formula takes into account several factors but largely relies on property values and median household income to determine how much money each school district receives from the commonwealth.

Described by legislators as a "complicated algorithm," the formula is designed to cover a larger portion of public education costs in Virginia's school districts with the fewest financial resources. The formula assumes that jurisdictions like Fairfax – considered one of the wealthiest localities in the country – can more easily afford to fund its own education systems through local taxes.

As a result, the state covers relatively little of Fairfax County Public Schools budget when compared to what they provide for other localities.

Virginia provides approximately \$23.47 for every \$100 spent on public education in Fairfax County. In other Virginia school districts which reap the most from the current funding formula the state provides \$84.47 for every \$100 spent on public education, according to Fairfax County documents.

"Any time you have a state funding formula that is

based on relative wealth, we don't do very well," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who represents Lorton, Springfield, Fairfax Station and Burke.

**BUT** Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties were expected to benefit financially from a scheduled recalculation of the state education funding formula this year.

Though property values and average household incomes remain high in Northern Virginia overall, Fairfax and these other local jurisdictions saw a more substantial drop in home prices when compared with other Virginia localities.

The result should have been that Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William received a larger slice of the state's overall education funding next year.

But if incoming Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) and the Virginia General Assembly take up Kaine's suggestion and decide to "freeze" the state's education funding formula, Fairfax and others will not see an increase in education funding.

Ninety-seven of the commonwealth's 136 school districts – and constituents represented by the majority of the Virginia General Assembly's members – would be negatively impacted by the scheduled change in the formula, so it is

likely that the freeze will be seriously considered and approved in the upcoming session.

The situation may be particularly tense because the General Assembly will likely have to cut state education monies across the board anyway, as the result of an overall budget shortfall.

"Any time you cut education, people are trying to get as much money as they possibly can," said Albo.

**ALBO** and other local members of the General Assembly said they are ready to fight any proposal to freeze the formula, even if they are outnumbered by their colleagues in the state legislature.

"The [funding formula] is used to measure the wealth of a locality and, for years, it has been used to jerk us around. Now, for the first time, the numbers are actually moving in our direction. Now that the system is actually starting to benefit Fairfax, they are asking us to freeze it out," said Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34).

"No other region of Virginia would tolerate this type of discriminatory treatment. ... We must fight against it," he added.

**"No other region of Virginia would tolerate this type of discriminatory treatment."**

— Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

COMMENTARY

# Charter School Debate

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

Among the topics that are likely to be fiercely debated this legislative session are revisions to Virginia's charter school law. The Center for Education Reform, advocates for expanding charter schools, recently gave Virginia a failing grade on its charter school law [www.charterschoolresearch.com].

An idea of what the center feels is appropriate charter school legislation can be gleaned from the fact that it gave the District of Columbia along with Minnesota and California an "A" grade.

The debate on charter schools should not be partisan. Both Gov.-elect Bob McDonnell and President Barack Obama support charter schools. According to a Richmond Times Dispatch editorial of Dec. 9, 2009, Virginia currently has only three of the nearly 5,000 charter schools in the nation. President Obama supports financial incentives to states to increase the number of charter schools. In his career as a legislator, Gov.-elect McDonnell was a supporter of



charter schools, tuition tax credits and vouchers. With the pressures on the budget and the inevitable reduction in funding for public schools, it is hard to see where the money for charter schools would come from unless the federal government comes through with some assistance. Already the Virginia School Boards Association has started to campaign against charter schools as "a program that will take existing school funds from your budgets to spend on establishing charter schools."

The conservative Virginia think tank, the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy, supports an expansion of charter schools. It has called for an appropriate debate on the issue. "It would be nice, as Virginians look for educational opportunities that will help children, if all the parties concerned offered constructive new solutions instead of resistance and protectionism. We'll accomplish a lot more for kids if we work together

on their behalf," the Institute wrote recently [www.thomasjeffersoninst.org]. Andy Rotherham who was educated in the public schools in Reston has his own education think tank, Education Sector [www.educationsector.org]. He too has called for making "public charter schools a real option in Virginia." As an educator myself for nearly 30 years I was deeply involved in setting up alternative schools within the public schools to meet students' special needs and interests. Specifically in the debate on charter schools I will be listening to hear how charter schools are different from alternative, magnet, and center-based schools within the public schools; whether the charters will have to meet the same standards, testing, and reporting as public schools; whether charter students will need to pass the SOL tests and No Child Left Behind Standards; and whether the current state funding formula and staffing standards will apply to charter schools.

The debate about charter schools can be a healthy way to improve our public schools and the education of Virginia's children.



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# OPINION

# Happy New Year

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## Keep in touch.

**A**t the Connection, we invite our readers to fill us in, literally. As we begin the New Year, we are reminded that we need to hear from our readers.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

To succeed at any of that, we need your help. Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, call us or send us an e-mail.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an e-mail letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or some-

thing you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, we are looking for people to feature each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became

## EDITORIAL

an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. E-mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at

least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Get Involved

The first day of the 2010 General Assembly session is Wednesday, Jan. 13.

The House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees will conduct a Regional Public Hearing on Friday, Jan. 8, at 10 a.m., at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus. The hearing will focus on the Governor's proposed 2010-12 Biennial State Budget and is open to the public.

Fairfax County's delegation to the General Assembly will hold a pre-session public hearing on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. Sign up to speak by calling the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

## LETTERS

## ARCH Draft Guidance On Reston's Growth

To the Editor:

In response to efforts outlined for the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force, established by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) to do the important work of planning for Reston's future development and growth, the Alliance of Reston Clusters and Homeowners (ARCH) has proposed a number of draft principles to guide the work of the Task Force.

1. ARCH acknowledges that increased commercial and residential development in the greater Reston area may be inevitable. But that development must be well planned and supported by all necessary infrastructure (public facilities and transportation — vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian), lest it degrade Reston's quality of life and its world-renowned special character. Fundamentally, the Task Force should distinguish between how much additional commercial and residential development might be possible versus how much would be appropriate, define the latter as the limit, and then identify what infrastructure improvements need to be undertaken

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

# Potpourri for 2010

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
CIVIC LEADER AND RESTON  
IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

**T**he first column of a new year is always a difficult one. One temptation is to grouse about the things that did not get accomplished (again) the preceding year. Another, of course, is to simply repeat a list of wishes for the new year that were listed the year before and not (and are not likely to be) realized. After mulling it over, I've arrived at a bit of potpourri of Reston desirables that fall into different categories: the highly unlikely, the possible, and the certain.

Revitalization of Lake Anne Village Center falls into the highly unlikely realm despite an ambitious new comprehensive plan. Our historic center and hidden gem is now dying. Seven retail operations shut down in the last few months; the bank pulled out its corporate offices and slashed its bank services; and, two mainstays — Lake Anne Pharmacy and Jasmine Café — are up for sale. The prospect of the Reston Association building at Lake Anne and providing a spark vanished when RA opted instead to rent larger, more expensive quarters in southwest Reston. Whether RA will continue to stand idly by as the community's

historic center expires remains to be seen. The Reston Farmers Market and Crafts Market will bring a surge in traffic on Saturdays come spring-time, but otherwise Lake Anne seems to be gasping its last.

A critical possibility is the achievement of a new Reston Master Plan, which could frame a brighter future for Reston. As noted in the last column, I am cautiously optimistic about the planning process finally begun in late 2009. If there is to be a bright tomorrow, a new/revised Master Plan must: sharply limit new density in volume and location (i.e., not beyond Reston Town Center, parts of the RCIG (Dulles Rail) Corridor and tightly defined village centers); encourage creative landmark structures such as gateways, air rights features over the corridor, new cultural marvels; establish quality construction criteria such as LEED Gold; and, require community review and approval for all future comp plan changes and new construction proposals before county action.

Most improbable and most unlikely — wouldn't it be great to see our elected officials stand up and



INDEPENDENT  
PROGRESSIVE

take leadership roles in draining the campaign finance swamp corrupting our political system in Richmond? Instead of the usual drivel legislation occupying their valuable time down there, how about proposing and fighting for an end to personal gifts from special interests and sharp limits on influence-buying campaign cash?

A certainty — this column will periodically recognize and spotlight elected officials who take bundles of cash and appear to bend to interests not in the public interest. I would welcome suggestions for a name for the award, dear reader.

Happy New Year!

## 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: Letters to the Editor  
The Connection • 1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail:  
[info@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:info@connectionnewspapers.com)

# THE CONNECTION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

to support that level of development.

2. The Task Force should update the facilities and transportation exhibits to the Reston Master Plan, including adopting the unfunded recommendations of the Reston Metrorail Access Group (RMAG, April 2008 Study). The Reston planning documents should then be amended to require that what have been identified as necessary infrastructure improvements to support specific new development must be put in place before or concurrently with that new development.

3. Reston's open space and recreational amenities are vital to Reston's quality of life. With increased growth comes demand for additional open space and, potentially, recreational amenities that must be identified and incorporated in the Reston planning documents. We accept that innovative solutions may be required, such as elevated parks or plazas.

4. In addition to open space and recreational amenities, Reston's world-renowned and unique character rests in part on its encouragement of environmentally sensitive development, public art and affordable housing for our teachers, nurses, police, firefighters, our service industry and professional

support staff, and others essential to the Reston work force. Accommodating these interests should remain important in defining the future growth of our community.

5. Reston's existing residential neighborhoods outside the RCIG (Reston Center for Industry and Government), Town Center and Lake Anne (per its approved redevelopment plan) should essentially remain stable at their as-built densities.

6. The Task Force should promote innovative architectural designs for the Reston Metro stations, especially for the Reston Town Center station. These are critical gateways into this unique community and they should reflect that uniqueness.

7. Because the Task Force must deal with many issues in a short time, it must be efficient and focused. Nonetheless, it should provide for a suitable level of transparency and opportunity for broad community awareness and input.

Over the next month, ARCH will coordinate the Issues Bulletin with its members, culminating with a Member meeting at 7 p.m. at the Hunters Woods Reston Community Center, on Jan. 14, to take further input and finalize the communiqué.

**Gerald R. Volloy**, President  
arch-pres@restonarch.org



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# Reston Students Excel in 'Nutcracker'

Thirty Reston students ages 6-18 performed in the Conservatory Ballet's annual production of "The Nutcracker." Final two performances took place Saturday, Jan. 2, at the Madeira School Theater in McLean.

Rebecca Mattern, an eighth grade student at Langston Hughes Middle School, captivated audiences with her performance of several solos, including Snow Queen, Cupid, Sara Doll and Chinese Tea. With 10 performances in the annual "Nutcracker" production, Artistic Director Julia Redick assembled three casts, allowing Mattern and other students to experience a variety of roles. "The Conservatory is a performing arts school," said Redick, "and 'The Nutcracker' provides our students performance opportunities so critical to their artistic growth."

South Lakes freshman Jasmine Roberts enjoyed the challenge of learning and performing a range of parts. Graced with long limbs and a powerful lift, Roberts excelled at the quick-paced dances. This year she pushed herself, spending countless hours perfecting turns, arabesques and partnering moves to expand her range. The work was well worth it when she stepped on the stage as Sugar Plum Fairy this year. "I like learning all the dances. Each one lets me be an entirely different character," said Roberts.

For more information, visit [www.conservatoryballet.com](http://www.conservatoryballet.com).



Jasmine Roberts thrills the audience with powerful jumps, high kicks, cartwheels and quick turns as she performs Sara Doll in the Reston Conservatory Ballet's annual production of 'The Nutcracker.'

## CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY/JAN. 7

**Open Mic for Bands Night.** 9 p.m. at Jimmy's Tavern, 697 Spring St., Old Town Herndon (on the Corner of Elden and Spring Streets). Bands will receive 30 minutes to play, and must pre-sign with Andre' Love at [soulcraftmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:soulcraftmusic@yahoo.com) or 703-984-9114. Walk-ins will only be accepted if time permits. All types of music welcomed. 703-435-5467.

**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.

**Cooking at College.** 10:30 a.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Cooking for the college student on a budget. \$50. Age 18 and up. Register at 703-787-7300 or [www.herndon-va.gov/registrationmain.sdi](http://www.herndon-va.gov/registrationmain.sdi).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 8

**Chicago City Limits.** 8 p.m. at The Barns at Wolftrap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Improv comedy. \$22. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 9

**Great Backyard Bird Count Program.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn to identify birds in preparation for The Great Backyard Bird Count in



Patricia Bason, *Secrets*, oil 18 x 24". Oil and Watercolor paintings at Reston Community Center at Hunter Woods, Reston. Paintings on display through the month of January. 2310 Colts Neck Rd. Reston. VA 703-476-4500

February. 703-242-4020.

**The Nicolo Whimsey Show.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Juggling, clowning and comedy. All ages. 703-689-2700.

**Greater Reston Arts Center** is presenting three Focus Exhibitions: Currents featuring Joseph Barbaccia's fantastical, sequined sculptures, Unintentional Drawings comprising Craig Kraft's experimental, neon sculptures, and Judy Southerland's

mixed media, narrative prints in Borderland. An opening reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The artists will talk about their work at 6:30 p.m.

**Chicago City Limits.** 7:30 p.m. at The Barns at Wolftrap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Improv comedy. \$22. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Langley High School Choir Concert.** 7 p.m. at Cornerstone International Church, 12113 Vale Road, Oakton. 703-264-1273.

**Reston Contra Dance.** 8 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Free beginners' workshop 7:15-8, dance 8:10-45. Admission \$8. 703-476-4500.

### MONDAY/JAN. 11

**Auditions for Metamorphoses,** at The Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Play runs March 19-April 10. 703-481-5930.

**Ultimate Fighting Championship, with Gray Maynard and Nate Diaz.** 6:15 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$43-\$203. at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or at 703-573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**Mother Goose Time.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories, songs and action

rhymes. Birth-23 months with adult. 703-437-8855.

**Brain Games.** 3:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. After-school drop-in program. Play chess, Blokus, Battleship, Rush Hour and other fun strategy games. Age 6 and up. 703-242-4020.

**Easy Reader Book Discussion, Level 2.** 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Read a book aloud and enjoy a related craft. Call for title. Age 6-7. 703-689-2700.

### TUESDAY/JAN. 12

**Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance.** 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10. [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

**Auditions for Metamorphoses,** at The Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Play runs March 19-April 10. 703-481-5930.

**Tail Waggin' Tutors.** 6:30 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Sign up to read to a well-trained therapy dog. Age 6-10 with adult. 703-437-8855.

**Who's Hibernating.** 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about animals in winter. Led by a Fairfax County Park naturalist. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

**Money Matters.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Monthly group discussion focuses on personal finance and investing. 703-242-4020.

**Special Twos.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stories and activities. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

**ESL Group Conversation.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Practice your English in a group with a volunteer facilitator. Adults. 703-689-2700.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

**English Conversation Group.** 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for adults non-native speakers every Wednesday. 703-242-4020.

**Book Discussion.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**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.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 14

**Special Twos.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stories and activities. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

**Friends' Book Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The Known World by Edward P. Jones. Adults. 703-689-2700.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 15

**Open Readings.** 7:30 p.m. at Reston's Used Book Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Poetry readings by professional and amateur writers. [afoggyword@yahoo.com](mailto:afoggyword@yahoo.com).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 16

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration.** 1-3 p.m. at the Reston Museum & Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Remembering Reston through Oral History interviews. [www.lakeanneplaza.com](http://www.lakeanneplaza.com)

**Penguins and Pottery Craft Time.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Painting a ceramic mug while enjoying stories about penguins. Age 7-12. 703-437-8855.

**So You Think You Can Dance Fairfax County Competition for Teens Audition Rounds.** 3-5 p.m. All contestants will need to fill out a Team Registration Entry Form prior to the audition, at any teen center or at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec); go to Teen Services. Audition locations are:

- James Lee Teen Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church.
- Mott Teen Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Fairfax.
- Reston Teen Center, 12196 Sunset Hills Drive, Reston.
- Hideaway Teen Center, South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 17

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration.** 1-3 p.m. at the Reston Museum & Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Remembering Reston through oral history interviews. [www.lakeanneplaza.com](http://www.lakeanneplaza.com)

**Annandale High School Chorus: Broadway Desserts.** 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University Cultural Arts Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Broadway show tunes. Tickets \$8-\$20. 703-916-0232 or [pam.odon@verizon.net](mailto:pam.odon@verizon.net).

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Fri., Feb. 26 vs. New York Knicks @ 7PM

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## Area Artist Illustrates Children's Book

Artist and Northern Virginia resident Carolina Seth has illustrated "Froggy Fun," a book in rhyme by children's author Treva Jean Edwardson (Tate Publishing).

Trained as a fine art artist in her native Spain, Seth has always enjoyed painting and sculpting and finds illustrating for children very rewarding. A long-time resident of Reston, she and her family recently

moved to Lansdowne where she paints and designs in her home based studio.

"Froggy Fun" will be officially released in bookstores nationwide in March of 2010. For inquiries or to order a pre-release copy, visit the publisher's Web site [[www.tatepublishing.com](http://www.tatepublishing.com)].

The artist will be donating copies to local Loudoun and Fairfax County Public Libraries and to the Seldens Landing Elementary School



Carolina Seth

where her daughter is a student. For more information, visit [www.carolinaseth.com](http://www.carolinaseth.com) or e-mail [natini20@yahoo.com](mailto:natini20@yahoo.com).

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2317 Middle Creek Lane.....\$350,000..Sat 1-3...Weichert.....Priti Malhotra.....703-628-4212

12004 Taliesin Pl #32.....\$319,900..Sun 1-4...Remax.....Ronald Layton.....703-625-5586

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## NEWS

# 2010 in Reston: What to Look For?

FROM PAGE 3

shops will also be held in conjunction with the task force meetings, and the Reston Association and many residents have pushed for as much public involvement as possible, including citizen advisory groups, but the task force has not yet decided exactly what role residents will play.

### RECREATION TO COME INDOORS?

After public outcry over the possibility of an indoor recreation center at Brown's Chapel Park, the Reston Association board voted to scrap the idea in July and tasked its Parks and Planning Advisory Committee to look into other possibilities for indoor recreation, as well as improvements to the existing facilities at Brown's Chapel. The group will present its findings in February.

One option being considered is converting the six outdoor tennis courts at Lake Newport to five indoor courts. The Design Review Board gave concept approval to the idea of four indoor courts on the site in 2003, but the committee is recommending five courts because that is the optimal number for tournaments. Reston Association Director of Parks and Recreation Larry Butler has said the structure, which would include some accessory space for bathrooms, an entry area and other uses, could be built on the site without increasing the existing amount of impervious surface.

The committee recommended in November that the Reston Association undertake studies and concept plans to give residents and the Design Review Board something to consider, and members suggested that the possible facility be put to a referendum sometime this year. Public outreach meetings can be expected in the near future.

### RESTON ASSOCIATION MOVES

The RA hopes to have finished moving its headquarters into one of the three Penzance buildings located at the intersection of Sunrise Valley Drive and Reston Parkway by sometime in August.

After a referendum asking for up to \$15 million to buy a headquarters of about 35,000 square feet failed to meet quorum last spring, the association set about finding a space to lease, settling on the new location at the beginning of December.

The new headquarters will occupy about 29,000 square feet, taking up all of the building's first

floor and part of its second story, and it will house public meeting space able to hold up to 150 people, as opposed to the 80 or so people that can fit in the board room of the current headquarters at Isaac Newton Square. The association has been in its current location for 35 years.

With the help of commercial real estate firm Cresa Partners, the RA settled on the new building based on its park-like setting, accessibility and cooperative owner, who made almost \$3 million in renovations and was willing to bargain, as well as its availability for long-term leasing, said Reston Association CEO Milton Mathews. The association signed a 12-year lease, with the option to renew for another 10 years, at \$27 per square foot. The current headquarters is leased for about \$19 per square foot.

### REDEVELOPING FAIRWAY APARTMENTS

A plan for the redevelopment of Fairway Apartments off North Shore Drive is likely to be approved this year. JBG Companies, which Reston residents know as the developer of Reston Heights, introduced a rough plan for the redevelopment last summer and has been working with the Reston Association's Design Review Board and Planning and Zoning Committee to fine-tune the design since then.

JBG, which has purchased the 19-acre development, has proposed replacing the existing 346 town-house style apartments with more than 900 units, most of them in multi-family buildings. All parking is to be housed in structures surrounded by residential buildings. In the densest part of the development, two six-story buildings would sit atop a four-story, fully landscaped parking structure. The density being proposed is already allowed under the current zoning.

Initially, the builder had proposed a small amount of community-serving retail on the site, but that idea has been dropped due to concerns that new retail services there would compete with Lake Anne Village Center, half a mile away, where businesses are already struggling.

The 11-home Golf Course Cluster bisects Fairway apartments, and JBG has expressed hopes of connecting the two portions of its property with a linear park.

### AREA BEGINS PAYING FOR METRO

Tolls on the Dulles Toll Road will

begin to rise this year, and a special commercial tax district, approved by the county Board of Supervisors in December, will go into effect. Both are to help cover the cost of construction of Metrorail to Dulles Airport and beyond.

Tolls from the toll road, which the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) took over from the state in October, are to cover more than half of the \$5.25 billion cost of building the rail. This year, tolls at both the main-line toll plaza and the on- and off-ramps will rise by 25 cents. The toll for getting on and off the road is then to hold steady through 2012, while the toll at the main plaza is to continue to rise by 25 cents per year for a 2012 toll of \$1.50 per two-axle vehicle. As payments on the debt that MWAA has incurred to build the rail continue to increase through 2042, tolls will continue to rise, but the airports authority has not determined what the rates will be beyond three years from now. The debt is to be paid off in 2053, at which point MWAA would turn the road back over to the state.

The special tax district to help fund Phase II of rail construction, from Wiehle Avenue west, runs along the toll road from Wiehle Avenue to the Loudoun County border and will help Fairfax County pay off its agreed-upon 16.1 percent share of rail funding. The tax applies only to commercial properties.

The tax rate for this year is to be 5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which will climb by 5 cents per year until 2013, when it will plateau at 20 cents. The total money to be raised by the tax district is capped at \$330 million, and the district can be left in place no longer than 50 years after its creation or 40 years after the first levy of its ultimate tax rate, whichever comes first.

In order for the district to be approved, the ownership of more than half of its \$8.6 billion assessed value had to sign onto a petition calling for self-taxation. MWAA had said that without the tax district, it would build the rail without the three stops planned for Reston Parkway, the Herndon-Monroe Park and Ride, and just east of Route 28. A similar tax district is helping to fund Phase I of construction, which will run to Wiehle Avenue and is now underway.

Phase II is expected to be operational by 2016.

# SCHOOLS



PHOTO BY LINA ABU-BAKER

The cast of 'The Laramie Project' at South Lakes High School. Top row, from left: Austin Leggett, Amalia Harte, Katie Beam, Casey Anderson, Victoria Sigle, Carson Gillions, Zana Schmitz, Brandon Christopher and Alex Turner. Bottom row, from left: Ashley Adams, Daniel Delcoco, Alessandro Gaiarin, Austin bur, Mary Davis and Emma Volpe

## A Lesson against Hate

BY LINA ABU-BAKER  
THE CONNECTION

With a snow storm on the way and a theater filled with an anxious audience, the South Lakes Theatre Arts Department performed a challenging show on Dec. 18. "The Laramie Project" taught students a lesson about hate crime. "The Laramie Project" is a play about the Tectonic Theater that travels to Laramie, Wyo. to conduct interviews with the people of the town about a tragic incident that took place here.

Matthew Shepard, a student at the University of Wyoming, was beaten and tortured to death because of his sexuality.

Maria Harris, the director and also the drama teacher at South Lakes High School, said that be-

cause it was emotional to work on this project, she would conduct discussions about death and hate crimes with the cast to help prepare them for the roles in "The Laramie Project."

Mary Davis, who played Matthew Shepard's good friend, said the hardest part about this project was being able to make each character different than other.

As for Austin Bur, the hardest part was "really getting to know the characters." Although getting into character was the hardest part for the cast, being able to bond quickly and become like a family was what senior Emma Volpe enjoyed the most. Also, being able to tell Shepard's story and portray real people on stage was what Casey Anderson and Carson Gillions enjoyed about being part of this project.

### Next Show

South Lakes High School Theatre Department will be performing "The Laramie Project" on Saturday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.

### What lesson did you take away from the play?

Jamel Charouel, ninth grade  
"It taught not to hate just because someone is different."



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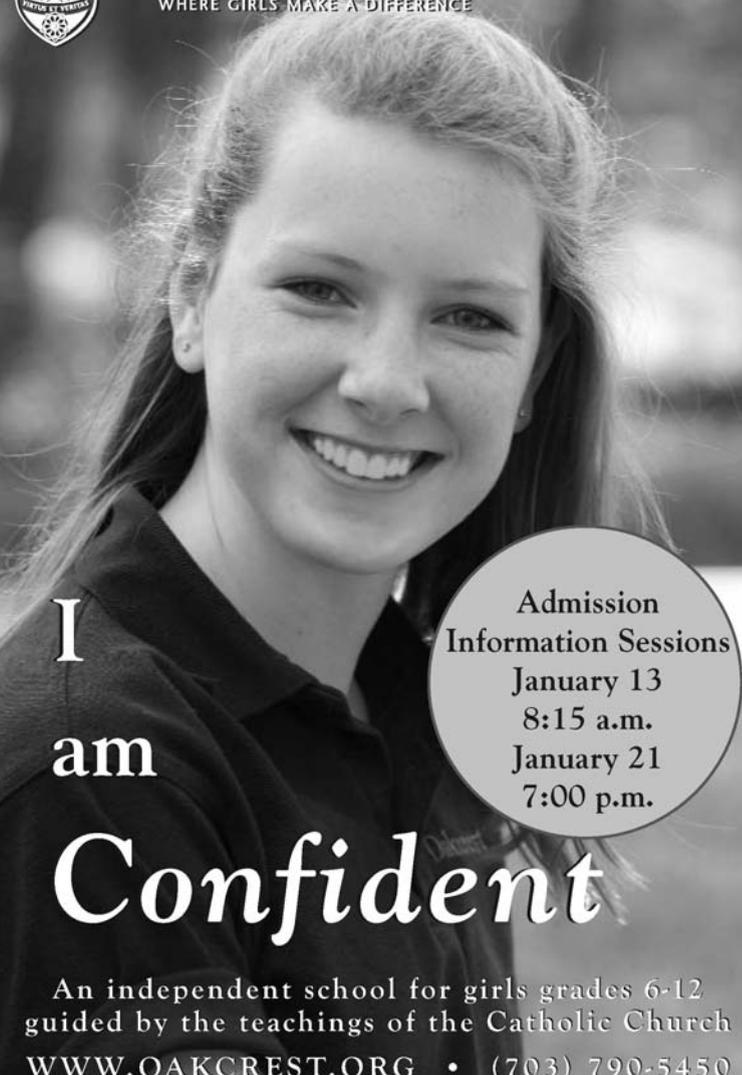
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**"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."**  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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# SPORTS

## 2009 — High School Sports Year in Review

**Langley Boys' lacrosse won state crown; Oakton girls reached state hoops finals.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he 2009 high school sports year was one in which numerous teams from the surrounding areas stepped up and put together breakthrough seasons. There were championships, dramatic turnaround campaigns and the magic that takes place when members of a roster come together as one to form a tightly knit unit. The following are a few of those teams that made memories that will last a lifetime.

**BASKETBALL:** The Oakton High girls were the champions of the Concorde District and Northern Region championships. Under Fred Priester, the Cougars displayed their talent, grit and heart throughout the winter by going unbeaten in region play in both the regular season and playoffs. In a region tournament semifinals game against Mount Vernon at Robinson Secondary, Oakton overcame an early 21-2 deficit to defeat the Majors, 47-39.

"You have to keep your cool because if one person freaks out [at being so far behind] then it's kind of a team reaction," said Oakton freshmen point guard Caroline Coyer, who scored a season-high 22 points in the victory.

Oakton also came from behind to defeat T.C. Williams, 74-66, in the region championship game after trailing by 11 in the first quarter. Coyer tallied 21 points to garner tourney MVP honors as the Cougars improved to 28-0. Other all-tournament selections for Oakton were senior leaders Erin McGartland and Brianna Johnson. Oakton went on to defeat Atlee (Mechanicsville) and Lake Taylor (Norfolk) in state playoff games before losing in the state finals, 71-61, to Princess Anne at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

South Lakes' girls won the regular season district crown and went 19-4 on the season. The team's best player was point guard Kelcyn Manurs, who earned District Player of the Year honors. The team's coach, Christy Winters Scott, earned District Coach of the Year accolades. The Seahawks were upset by Madison in the district semifinals and fell to a tough South County team at regionals.

**BASEBALL:** With six starters back from its 2008 team that went 15-8, McLean took the next step forward in 2009 and became

champions of the Liberty District. Behind starting pitching aces Sean Fitzgerald and Denis Buckley, the Highlanders enjoyed a 16-4 season. They captured the regular season district title before going on to win the district tournament as well. The Highlanders trailed defending district champion Stone Bridge, 5-0, in the championship game before rallying for an 11-8 win. A nine-run fourth inning, following a stern pep talk from head coach John Thomas, turned the game around in dramatic fashion. "I've got to credit coach Thomas," said McLean catcher Erik Payne, one of just two seniors on the young roster. "He gave an incredible speech."

At Herndon High, longtime baseball coach Al McCulloch elected to step down following the 2009 spring season. The popular skipper had been at the helm of the program for 17 years. His final game for the 8-11 Herndon ball club came in a first round Concorde District playoff loss to Robinson. During the season, the Herndon baseball diamond was re-named in McCulloch's honor. Under the coach, Herndon captured four district titles and two Northern Region championships, 1995 and 1996. His 2002 team finished 21-3. McCulloch enjoyed coaching his '09 Hornets' team. "We had a good bunch of kids," he said. "They worked hard and we were in every game."

**FOOTBALL:** Madison High had its ups and downs in the fall of 2009. But in the end, the Warhawks were a pretty good football team and reached the Division 5 Northern Region semifinals before losing to region power Stone Bridge.

Madison had stunned Stone Bridge, 28-14, during a regular season meeting between the Liberty District foes. It was the lone region loss of the season for the Bulldogs, who would go on to capture the Division 5 re-

gion crown and ultimately reach the state AAA finals before losing to Phoebus.

Stone Bridge's district loss to Madison was its first ever in the Liberty District, snapping the Bulldogs' 31-game district win streak. For the Warhawks, the win was a dramatic turnaround for a Madison squad that, the week before, had suffered a deflating 21-14 loss to South Lakes on the weekend in which the Vienna school was celebrating both its homecoming and 50th year anniversary as a school.

The bounce-back win over Stone Bridge propelled Madison toward the playoffs, where the Warhawks defeated an always-tough Edison team before falling to the Bulldogs in the semifinals.

Two Liberty District teams — McLean and South Lakes — put together memorable turnaround football seasons in 2009. Both programs had experienced several years of losing in prior years.

South Lakes began the season 5-1 but faltered over the second half of the season to finish 5-6. Behind star running back Ja'Juan Jones, the Seahawks qualified for the Division 5 region playoffs. The season's highlight game was a 24-21 victory at Madison on the Warhawks' homecoming. For coach John Ellenberger's Seahawks, the five wins were their highest total in several years. "Our kids did a great job this year and were happy to make the playoffs," said the coach.

**LACROSSE:** The Langley High boys' lacrosse team ran the table with a perfect 10-0 record in the postseason to win its first-ever state championship last spring. The Saxons defeated Madison for the Liberty District crown, Robinson in the Northern Region finals and Chantilly for the state title to finish 21-1 overall.

Alex Devlin's overtime goal was the game-winner in the state championship

game win over the Chargers in the contest played at Westfield High. The senior midfielder's sizzling shot off the right side found the net and started a spontaneous on-field Saxon celebration as Chantilly, the 2008 state champions, looked on in disbelief.

"I love these players and I love this team," said an emotional Earl Brewer, the program's longtime head coach.

**SOCCER:** The Oakton girls, which had finished under .500 in 2008, became a Northern Region force under first-year head coach Brooke Alexander in the spring of 2009. The Cougars went 14-5 and qualified for the state AAA playoffs. Oakton was at its best during the region playoffs when it won its first two games to set up a semifinals meeting versus West Springfield High. There, in the game played at Robinson, the Cougars won on penalty kicks, the clincher coming on a PK off the foot of senior midfielder Christy Hassell,

a team captain.

Oakton went on to lose a heart breaker to Chantilly, 1-0, in the finals, but the Cougars had still reached vast heights by qualifying for states.

**VOLLEYBALL:** Behind standout players Elysse Richardson and Kathryn Caine, the Langley girls reached the state playoffs for the second time in three years this past fall. The Saxons lost in the Liberty District finals to Stone Bridge but came back strong with Northern Region playoff wins over West Springfield, Hayfield and Robinson to reach the finals, where they lost to South County. Langley's outstanding season ended with a setback to Loudoun Valley at states. The upset region semis win over Robinson was perhaps the highlight of the season for the Saxons. "We just played so well against them," said Langley coach Susan Shifflett. "We had to play one of our best matches to beat them."

**OTHER GREAT TEAMS OF 2009:** The underdog Langley girls' field hockey team which, as a No. 6 seed at the Liberty District tournament, upset No. 3 Marshall and No. 2 Madison to reach the finals where it gave top seed Fairfax all it could handle in a 1-0 loss. ... The Oakton boys' cross country team, under coach Phil Tiller, won its fifth straight Concorde District crown. Led by standout runner Andrew McCullen, the Cougars went on to successfully defend its region title as well. ... South Lakes' outdoor track and field team won the Liberty District and region crowns last spring. Vincent Brown led the way at regionals with three first place finishes. ... Langley's wrestling team, under coach John Belyea, captured its ninth straight district title last February. Three Saxons — David Helmer, Jay Ives and Anthony Kotoriy — won district crowns.



**The Fred Priester-coached Oakton High girls' basketball team won every game up until the state finals last winter.**

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

# Can't Handel It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I imagine the confession I'm about to make likely will get me banned from future similar cultural events (good!). But, since I'm sitting here (here being the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.) semi-listening to their Choir & Baroque Orchestra, I have to do something, even if some might consider writing on the very program describing the music, musicians, conductor and author to which I'm listening (I didn't say subjected; after all, it was with my consent that I agreed to this outing) a defamation of my character (or lack thereof) and a defacing of sacred text. Nevertheless, as Popeye the Sailor Man said so famously, "I yam what I yam." And what I am not, as has been proven by this musical interlude, is a fan of George Frederick Handel's Messiah, (God forgive me) "arguably the most widely shared musical experience in our culture. Each year the oratorio is sung by tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people." And it is "mid nave" that I find myself not so enthralled on Sunday, Dec. 6.

And though the National Cathedral is an elegant and magnificent environment for this most traditional of presentations, I am not sure if my eyes and ears can truly appreciate its suitability. However, as I am writing (and then pausing and thinking about what to write next) I have to admit, the music and words (many of which I can't actually discern) do provide a soothing backdrop, conducive almost, to this creative process. I don't imagine, though, that the cognoscente of this music appreciate it for its inoffensive/barely noticeable/backdrop-type white noise as I do.

I mean, the Cathedral is nearly full, at \$54 a ticket – not exactly a cheap thrill (and in a challenging, shall we say, economy to boot). Apparently, these many listeners put their money where their ears are. It's only people/non-patrons of the arts like me who don't know any better and can't process the melodies sufficiently to find joy in "them thar" notes and we're nearly two-thirds ("Part The Second") through this holiday tradition. (The extremely famous "Hallelujah!" chorus is close, I'm told.)

Let me be clear, none of this commentary has anything at all to do with the amazingly talented musicians, soloists, conductors and choir performing this evening. Nor is it a reflection of the courteous and patient staff ushering (voluntarily no doubt) the hundreds of ticket-holding Handel enthusiasts to their assigned seats. It's more about an experience I have now shared with many before me, and heard much about, that I officially "don't get." I wouldn't say attending this event was worth the money we spent (like The Allman Brothers concert I saw in October was) but in an odd way, I do feel better having experienced it.

Would I go back? No. Do I regret having gone? No. Am I planning my next cultural soiree? Absolutely not! For me, enjoying such fare is an "a choired" taste. A taste which I have not yet acquired. (I did find a great parking space on Wisconsin Ave. directly across from the Cathedral, though.)

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

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## OBITUARIES

### Leonor Sullivan, 70, of Reston Dies

Leonor (Lee) E. Sullivan of Reston died peacefully on Dec. 29, 2009, at the Cameron Glen Assisted Living Facility in Reston, due to colon cancer. She leaves behind her loving husband of 40 years, John, of Reston, her sons, Johnny, of Waldorf, Md., and Jimmy, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; her daughters-in-law Kristen, of Waldorf and Mary, of Brooklyn; her two grandchildren Katie and Andrew, of Waldorf; her three brothers, Rolando, Ricardo and Dennis; her three sisters, Diana, Virginia and Cindy; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was born in Laredo, Texas on Nov. 20 1939, and joined the CIA in 1963 as part of an agency program in which Spanish speaking women were recruited to serve as secretaries in Latin speaking countries. Sullivan served in several overseas posts, with her last assignment in Saigon, Vietnam from 1971-75. In retirement, Sullivan typed and edited her husband John's two books, and was a

devoted grandmother to Katie and Andrew.



**Leonor (Lee) E. Sullivan**

A wake will be Wednesday, Jan. 6, from 5-8 p.m., at the Adams-Green Funeral Home in Herndon. The Funeral Mass will be Thursday, Jan. 7 at 11 a.m., at St. Thomas á Becket in Reston on followed by a reception at 12 noon.

### Betty K. Hewitt, 77, Former Area Resident, Dies

Betty Kathrine (Brown) Hewitt of Davis, Calif., died Nov. 30, 2009 of complications from multiple myeloma at Sutter Davis Hospital. She was 77.

Born Feb. 20, 1932, in Oklahoma City, Okla., to LeRoy Brown and Aylee Estella (Deveny) Brown, she grew up in Chickasha, Okla.

She graduated from Chickasha High School in 1950, then earned an associate's degree in commerce from Hartnell College in Salinas, Calif., in 1952.

She worked as an inventory controller at Crane Co. in Salinas until 1963.

She married veterinarian Henry Clark Hewitt on Nov. 2, 1962, in Tijuana, Mexico. They settled in Virginia with a blended family that included five children.

She served as secretary and registrar at Green Hedges School in Vienna from 1971 to 1976, then as a media and library technician for South Lakes High School in Reston until 1984.

She worked as an office manager for Veterinary Consulting Services from 1984 to 1988, then as an administrative assistant for the National Concrete Masonry Association in Herndon until 1992.

When Betty Hewitt wasn't on the job, she enjoyed teaching Sunday school at Wesley Methodist Church in Vienna, volunteering with F.I.S.H. (Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help) in Reston and singing alto in the Emmaus United Church of Christ choir.

In 1993, she and her husband retired to Davis, Calif.

In Davis, Betty Hewitt took painting classes at the Davis Art Center, winning ribbons at the Yolo County Fair, was active in a book club and volunteered at the disability resource center on the UC Davis campus. She attended United Methodist Church of Davis.

She also enjoyed singing, playing piano, telling and writing stories, cooking and entertaining, and spoiling her children and her cats, Curt and Misha.

Her family and friends will remember her for her generosity and creativity. She was always fun to be around.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry, and daughter Elizabeth.

Betty Hewitt is survived by her son Raymond Hewitt and his wife Lea of Tucson, Ariz.; daughter Heather Hewitt of Herndon; son Brian Hewitt and his wife Mary Ann of Smithfield, Va.; daughter Natalie Wormeli and her husband, Ben, of Davis, Calif.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Her family would like to thank the Sutter Davis Hospital intensive care unit staff for their kindness and excellent care.

A private celebration of her life is planned for Jan. 7, with her ashes scattered in San Francisco Bay.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

## New Toll Road Rates In Support of Rail to Dulles

### \$1 Toll at Main Toll Plaza; 75 cents at on/off ramps.

As of Jan. 1, 2010, toll rates on the Dulles Toll Road increased by 25 cents at the Main Toll Plaza and 25 cents at the on/off ramps. The new rates for commuters are \$1 at the Main Toll Plaza and 75 cents at the on/off ramps. After conducting a series of public hearings earlier this year, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Directors approved this toll rate increase in November as part of the funding plan for the Toll Road and rail in the Dulles Corridor. The Board also approved two additional toll rate increases to take effect in 2011 and 2012.

The toll increase is necessary for the Airports Authority to fulfill its commitment to construct the Metrorail Project through the Dulles Corridor. That commitment is contained in agreements with the Commonwealth of Virginia and local

governments in Northern Virginia, and is based in substantial part on the parties' agreement that funding for the Metrorail Project is to come from Dulles Toll Road revenues, as well as contributions by the federal government, the Commonwealth, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, and the Airports Authority.

Under its agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Airports Authority has assumed the responsibility to operate and maintain the Dulles Toll Road for a 50-year period.

In addition to the increases that became effective on Jan. 1, 2010, the Airports Authority Board of Directors has approved an additional increase of 25 cents at the Main Toll Plaza scheduled to begin on Jan. 1, 2011, and another 25 cent increase at the Main Toll Plaza scheduled to begin on Jan. 1, 2012. There will not be any increases at the ramp areas in 2011 or 2012.

#### NEW TOLL RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

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3 Axles	\$1.25	\$1.00
4 Axles	\$1.50	\$1.25
5 Axles	\$1.75	\$1.50
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SOURCE: Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

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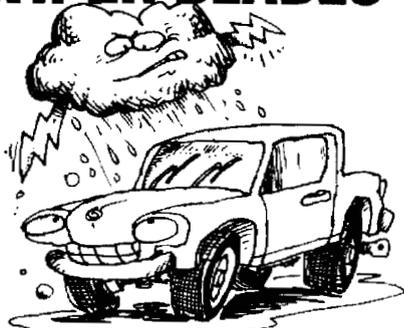
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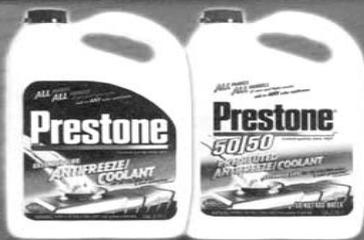
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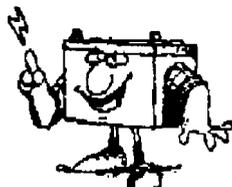
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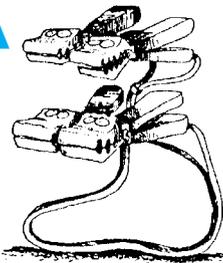


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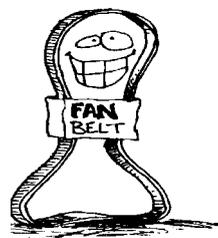
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