

# Reston CONNECTION

# Donating Joy Of Biking

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## Graffiti Doesn't Dampen Lake Anne Mood

NEWS, PAGE 3

Pictured from left - Adam Lewendowski, Joe Therell, Anne Mader, Holly Jackson, Sarah Sanders, Tony Hernandez, and Loren Vandivere, all Bike Lane employees except for Jackson, participated in Reston store's drive to donate 42 new bikes to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

## Area Families Will Feel School Budget Crunch

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE MADER. OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12



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# COUNTY LINE

## Large Classes Put Students in Tight Spot

Fairfax's average class size bumps up against physical and legal constraints.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**I**ncreasingly large classes in local schools could begin to threaten student safety as well as student learning, according to school officials.

Fairfax County schools superintendent Jack Dale said local class sizes are getting to a point where officials would have to be careful about going over the maximum capacity allowed in some classrooms.

"Quite frankly, we are getting to the point in some schools where we are pushing the envelope in terms of the fire code," said Dale, during a budget presentation to the Fairfax County School Board Jan. 7.

Schools are being forced to cram 35 to 38 students into classrooms that were built to a 28-person capacity, said Dean Tistadt, Fairfax County Public Schools chief operating officer.

"If it is an older high school or an older middle school, we have some concerns about whether they can fit all the students into the classroom that they need to fit into the classroom because of building and fire code reasons," said Tistadt.

**DALE SAID** the school system does not have classes exceeding room or building capacities currently.

"There is nothing in violation now. We would never do that because I am not going to sit here and violate the fire code," said Dale.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department said that it has received no complaints about violations in public schools. The department has a "pro-active" approach to investigating county facilities, including public schools, though officials said the inspections are not necessarily done on a regular schedule.

"If we received a complaint



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Resident Eric Males sent this photo of a crowded classroom at Churchill Road Elementary School in McLean to Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Gov. Bob McDonnell (R).**

about a school, we would investigate it immediately. ... We do inspect the school periodically but they also have their own inspectors," said Dan Schmidt, spokesman for the fire and rescue department.

If officials discover a class is too large for the room where it is scheduled to take place, they often move that section to a larger space, like a small lecture hall or assembly meeting room, he said.

"Sometime you have to move classes into a larger room that might not be the best space for that subject," said Dale.

**IN SPITE OF CONCERNS** about class size, Dale has suggested raising Fairfax's average class size by one student during the 2010-11 school year as a way of closing the system's budget gap of \$100 million to \$200 million. By increasing the average class by one student, the school system saves approximately \$17.1 million, according to budget documents.

The Fairfax County School Board has raised the average class size twice in the last two years in order to make up for past financial shortfalls.

"People are not going to be happy to see another increase in class size," said Dale.

Class size is likely to go up even more next year if the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors does not give the school system the extra \$57.8 million Dale has requested, he said. Without the extra funding, Dale and the School

Board would be forced to bump the average class by more than one student in 2010 and 2011.

In March, the county supervisors decide on a budget, defined primarily by the real estate property tax rate, and announce the county's total transfer to the school system. The School Board will then make its final decision about spending cuts, including whether to raise average class size again, in April.

Several School Board members fear that Fairfax County will either freeze or cut the school budget from where it was last year in order to avoid raising taxes. If the county were to hold the school budget to its present level, the school system would be have to make approximately \$160 million in cuts.

"If we have to cut \$160 million, there is going to be a lot of pain. If we have to cut \$160 million, we are going to have to increase class size," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill.)

**THE LARGER CLASSES** are having a negative impact on instruction, said several school advocates.

At the elementary school level, principals are being forced to create more combination classrooms, where students from two different grades are put in one homeroom class for most of the day.

This can result in very large classes for certain subject areas. School Board Member Liz Bradsher (Springfield) has had

one constituent complain about elementary school math section with 42 students in Burke's Cherry Run Elementary School.

Since math instruction is grade level specific, Cherry Run breaks up a fourth and fifth grade combination class and sends students to other homerooms for that subject. When fourth grade students from the combination class are added to another fourth grade class in the school, the result is one math section with 40-plus students, said Bradsher.

In high schools, an increase in the average class size has meant that electives, including advanced science and math courses, which do not attract a substantial number of students to sign up have to be dropped from the school schedules altogether.

Bradsher also said that middle and high school students have a particularly hard time fitting into science labs when classes are large.

"You see problems more in the labs in high schools. You can always move a bookshelf or a TV out into the hallway to make more room in a classroom. It is a lot harder to do that in a lab," said Bradsher.

Teachers also complain that they are having difficulty moving around some classrooms and that they have had to seat children in areas of the classroom that they cannot easily reach for one-on-one instruction, said Leonard Bumbaca, president of the Fairfax Education Association.

"It creates an element that is far

more congested. You can't move the walls and so you lose a lot of flexibility and sometimes the ability to teach properly," he said.

Bumbaca said he has heard of several classes that exceed 32 students. Some music and physical education sections have 40 students, since they are not considered "core subjects."

"Let's be frank. The impact on instruction is already here and it is only going to get worse," he said.

**SEVERAL FAIRFAX** classes already exceed the teacher-to-student-ratio laid out by the Virginia Department of Education in state regulations.

The commonwealth's "standards of quality" in education call for the teacher-to-student ratio in an average kindergarten class to be one to 24. In Fairfax, the ratio is one to 26.25, according to this year's budget documents.

State regulations also call for a teacher-to-student ratio of one to 24 for first through third grade classes and one to 25 for fourth and fifth grades. According to budget documents, Fairfax County is maintaining a staffing ratio of one-to-26.25 students in grades first through six this year.

Fairfax school officials said the school system calculates their student-to-teacher ratio differently than Virginia's Department of Education and that Fairfax is not in violation of state regulations, even if the budget documents suggest they are.

But in certain schools, several classes are much larger than Fairfax's average class size as well as the Virginia Department of Education's recommendations.

At Springhill Elementary School in McLean, parent Catherine Lorenze said two fifth-grade homerooms have 31 students and every sixth grade homeroom has 30 students.

According to Lorenze, Forestville Elementary School in Great Falls also has a third, fourth and sixth-grade class with 30 students each. Colvin Run Elementary School in Vienna has three fifth-grade classes with 31 students each and two fifth-grade classes with 33 students each.

"We have several fifth and sixth grade classes that are 30 to 35 students and primary class sizes that are 29 to 30 kids in the lower grades. Class sizes of 30 to 35 students are troublesome," said School Board member Jane Strauss (Dranesville.)



NEWS

Recipients of the 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award include HAND (Housing Association for Nonprofit Developers) Executive Director Jill Norcross and the Langston Hughes Middle School Peer Mediation Program.

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award Recipients Named

**Awards ceremony will take place on Monday, Jan. 18.**

The 2010 Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Planning Committee named three recipients for its 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award and one special award recipient for International Impact by a Reston-based Organization. Reston Interfaith, the Langston Hughes Middle School Peer Mediation Program and HAND (Housing Association for Nonprofit Developers) Executive Director Jill Norcross are among those who will be honored Monday, Jan. 18 with the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award. Global Camps Africa will also receive a Special Award for International Impact by a Reston-based Organization. The awards ceremony will take place on Monday, Jan. 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the CenterStage at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Winners will be presented with a commemorative plaque to congratulate them on their exemplary work. The public is invited.

Each year, a review committee analyzes nominations for the awards submitted by community members. Committee members seek individuals and organizations that exemplify the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr. by making meaningful contributions to the Reston community through leadership, service and education. All winners are chosen based on contributions to the community in

support of tolerance and equal opportunities, efforts that reduce poverty and promotion of non-violence and conflict resolution.

"These awards recognize the quiet, daily way the recipients live the values espoused and modeled by Dr. King. Their efforts are a testament to the power of individuals to change the world by making their communities open, generous and accepting of all people and their inherent dignity. In this way our 2009 Community Service awardees continue Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy," said Leila Gordon, RCC Executive Director.

The commemorative program is from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) for more details on the weekend celebration from Jan. 16-18.

## Award Recipients

**Jill Norcross** (Individual), executive director, Housing Association for Nonprofit Developers (HAND)

Norcross embodies Dr. King's ideals of tolerance, equity and the promotion of peace. She has been serving the Reston community in a variety of capacities, including as the Executive Director of the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND). This organization was formed in 1991 to bring together the community of housing providers in order to increase the supply of affordable housing in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C.-Richmond corridor. In addition to her professional role with HAND, she is an active volunteer in the community. She recently began her second three-year term as a member of the Reston Interfaith (RI) Board of Directors. She has been an active member of the Program Oversight and Resource

Development Committees, as well as chairman of the Affordable Housing/Homeless Prevention Task Force of the Board that serves as a liaison between RI and its affiliate, Reston Interfaith Housing Corporation and is the spokesman for these issues with volunteers/civic groups. She also chaired a Task Force that was in discussions about potential development of affordable housing around transit-oriented development, such as plans for Wiehle Avenue and Reston Town Center transit stops. Norcross is also an involved volunteer with Buzz Aldrin Elementary PTA and has organized community service opportunities for elementary students to learn about homelessness in the community, for example, an annual walk to raise awareness and funds for the Embry Rucker Shelter. She is a co-leader of her son's Boy Scout troop and has been a youth Sunday school teacher at St. Timothy's for more than five years. She has organized St. Timothy's volunteer efforts for feeding the homeless and providing guest support at the winter hypothermia program.

**Langston Hughes Middle School Peer Mediation Program (Youth)** - In 2009, The Peer Mediation Program sponsored numerous projects including the Thanksgiving Food Drive to collect canned food from students and staff members to benefit the Reston Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry; Random Acts of Kindness "Have a Heart: Show You Care," a week long theme event to educate students on the importance of kindness and service to others; Red Ribbon Week, a week long theme event to educate students

SEE MLK AWARDS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY JOHN LOVAAS

The bronze statue of Reston founder Bob Simon was among several objects at Lake Anne targeted by a graffiti spree last week.

## Grffiti Doesn't Dampen Lake Anne Mood

**Sushi and Greek-Italian restaurants to open, Jasmine to stay.**

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

Despite being hit by a graffiti spree last week, business at Lake Anne Plaza continues apace, with a delivery-only sushi restaurant to open in the near future and a closing date settled on for the sale of the former Tavern on the Lake.

Late in the night on Monday, Jan. 4 or in the wee hours of the next morning, a number of surfaces were defaced with spray paint, much of the vandalism in lavender, said Eve Thompson, president of the Lake Anne Merchant's Association. "It looked like somebody got into their mother's craft stuff," she said, adding that police had confirmed that there was no indication the graffiti was gang-related.

Carol Nehorniak of Myers Public Relations, spokesperson for Lake Anne Plaza, said no foul language had been used, and most of the vandalism consisted of "a lot of symbols that didn't make any sense."

Among the surfaces defaced was the bronze statue of Reston founder Bob Simon, as well as Washington Plaza Baptist Church, where black spray paint reportedly read, "God loves you."

Nehorniak said Reston His-

toric Trust was taking care of the statue, while the Lake Anne Reston Condo Association had almost all the rest of the graffiti cleaned up by the day after it was discovered.

**EXCEPTIONS** were a couple of planters made of porous concrete, which Thompson said were more difficult to clean and could require the services of a professional company.

However, she said the incident did not dampen the mood of Lake Anne business owners. A buyer, who she could not yet name but who specializes in Greek and Italian cuisine, had come forward to purchase the former Tavern on the Lake, and a closing date on the deal was set for late February. "Everything appears to be on track," she said of the purchase. "We're very excited about that."

Jiang Gangmiao, who signed a lease on the small space next to the Reston Museum in September, said he was not sure when his business, G. Sushi, would open, as he was still waiting on county approval, but he hoped to open sometime next month. Having worked for many years as a sushi chef, he said this would be the first restaurant he has owned and operated.

Jasmine Café owner Eduardo Faubert laid to rest recent rumors that he was about to put his restaurant up for sale. He said the story had resulted from his inquiry for local business prices from a broker, noting that he was simply "looking at all the options in front of me" as he considered his future retirement.

SEE LAKE ANNE, PAGE 11

## Suspicious Death Ruled a Homicide

The Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has classified the Oct. 24, 2009 death of a 42-year-old Karen Deck as a homicide. The investigation continues but police do not believe there are any threats to public safety. Charges are pending.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, around 3:40 p.m., officers were called to an apartment in the 11900 block of Winterthur Lane to check on the welfare of an adult man. They located a man sitting inside. The body of a woman was also found inside the apartment. An investigation determined the victim, Karen Deck, of 1599 Inlet Court in Reston, had received a gunshot wound to the upper body.

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.

## Reston 2020 Blog Launched

The Reston 2020 Committee, an open committee of Reston citizens created by the Reston Citizens Association (RCA), in partnership with Reston Association (RA) and the Association of Reston Clusters and Homeowners (ARCH), has launched its blog, Reston 2020: Citizens Shaping Reston's Future. The blog reflects the Reston 2020 Committee's view that Reston's citizens ought to have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to efforts to re-think the future of Reston.

The Committee created this blog to keep Restonians and others interested in Reston informed about what the recently launched, county-created Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force is doing. The intent of this blog is to provide timely accounts of schedules, agendas, and events as well as reports by Reston 2020 and other Reston civic organizations in a way that encourages citizen participation.

The blog may be viewed at <http://reston2020.blogspot.com/>

## Catalytic Converter Thefts on Rise

The crime prevention office of the Fair Oaks District Police Station announced Thursday, Jan. 7 that there had been an increase in catalytic converters stolen from automobiles over the past few months in the Fair Oaks District, neighboring districts and throughout the county.

Thefts have occurred in commuter lots and neighborhoods during both daytime and nighttime hours, mostly during the workweek. Suspect descriptions vary. Toyotas have been frequently targeted, although not exclusively.

Residents are encouraged to be aware of suspicious activity and be alert of their surroundings. Residents are not to confront criminals but should report any suspicious activity immediately by calling either 9-1-1 (for crimes in-progress) or 703-691-2131. Callers may remain anonymous. Anyone with information can also contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text by sending "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637.

## 'Community Conversation' for Area Parents

The Children's Science Center has partnered with Leadership Fairfax's Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) to conduct a series of seven community forums in Northern Virginia during the first half of 2010. Dubbed the "Community Conversations" project, the goals are to spread awareness about the proposed Children's Science Center and to learn more about the experience the community seeks in a children's science center. The first Community Conversation, a forum just for parents, will be Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Reston Community Center Lake Anne, Jo Anne Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza, near the intersection of Village and North Shore Drive.

## NEWS

# Donating Joy of Biking

## The Bike Lane donates new bikes to Toys for Tots.

BY ALLISON AUSTIN  
THE CONNECTION

Last holiday season, The Bike Lane donated 42 new bikes to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Through monetary donations from customers and other bike enthusiasts, The Bike Lane collected \$8,500, according to Anne Mader, co-Owner of The Bike Lane.

"The idea is to raise money and buy safe, high quality bikes for all aged kids," said Mader.

The Bike Lane started the Toys for Tots bike fund-raiser four years ago at their Burke location. Mader was first introduced to the idea of a Toys for Tots bike donation by Holly Jackson, a cyclist. Jackson started it with her business and contacted Mader to see if they could purchase the bikes from The Bike Lane. Mader was immediately interested in becoming involved and promoting it through the bike shop and other businesses and community organizations. She coordinated with Jackson, who had the contacts with the Marines and local biking teams.

**THE BIKE LANE** partnered with several bicycling teams, including Quantico Mountain Biking Team, FBI Race Team and the Mid Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts, to raise awareness of the fundraiser in the bicycling community.

Mader reached out to other local businesses including Ex2 Adventures and Positively Chiropractic in an attempt to find others connected to the cause.

"It was a pretty easy yes for me," said Jim Harman, race director of Ex2 Adventures, in response to why he joined the effort. "Any time that we can help give back to the community in a positive way, I'm all for it."

The Bike Lane received donations directly from customers at the store register as well as online donations. Their partners promoted it on their respective websites, linking to The Bike Lane's donation page.

"If you donated \$25, you knew that you were donating enough for a helmet. If you donated \$125, it



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE MADER

**The Bike Lane involvement in the bike donation initiative started with Holly Jackson, pictured above, sharing the idea with Anne Mader.**

was enough to buy a 12-inch kid's bike so we gave goals. ... We had everything from \$5 donations to, I think our highest donation was \$1,000," said Mader.

The Bike Lane collected the money and bought the bikes from their manufacturer, Trek, which gave a discount on the bikes so the company could buy as many bikes as possible.

The bikes purchased ranged from a 12-inch to a 24-inch children's bike. A helmet was included with every bike. While Mader acknowledged that they could buy a larger quantity if they

"Everybody remembers their first bike. Everybody remembers riding their first bike ... the freedom of it and the adventure and the fun," Mader said. "We get a lot of [donations from] people who remember getting a bike for Christmas."

Harman echoed this sentiment. "Every kid loves to get a new bike. Helping out people who are less fortunate is always a good thing, especially around the holidays," he said.

**MADER** also thinks people are starting to realize the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. A bike is one way to lower the high obesity rate among children and promote health.

Despite the stress of organizing the Toys for Tots fund-raiser, Mader finds satisfaction in knowing 42 children woke up on Christmas morning with a new bike.

"While we don't get to see the kids who get the bikes, we know that we're making a difference and the Bike Lane's philosophy is all about getting more people on bikes," said Mader.

The Bike Lane is planning on continuing the Toys for Tots bike donation this year.

The Bike Lane is located at 11943 Democracy Drive in the Reston Town Center.

**"Everybody remembers their first bike. Everybody remembers riding their first bike ... the freedom of it and the adventure and the fun."**

— Anne Mader

just bought really small bikes, it was important to include older children.

"It's about making sure we're donating the right kind of bikes and the bikes that they need," said Mader.

Despite the poor economy, Mader thinks people donate to causes that they relate to and understand.

# SCHOOL NOTES

U.S. Army Captain **Kenneth Ward** has received a master of science degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle University. Ward is the son of Jonathan and Jane Ward of Reston and Cindy and Alvin Glatkowski of Duck, N.C., and is married to Valerie Mahr Ward, formerly of Chantilly. A 2003 graduate of James Madison University, Ward is assigned to the 82nd Aviation Brigade at Ft. Bragg, N.C., and is currently on deployment in Afghanistan.

**Meagan Carrick** of Reston has been inducted into Ithaca College's Oracle Honor Society. Carrick is the daughter of James and Mary Carrick, and majoring in music performance education, voice.

Navy Seaman Apprentice **Dylan L. Grise** was promoted to his current rank upon graduation from recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Grise received the early promotion for outstanding performance during all phases of the training cycle. Grise is the son of Michelle M. Grise of Reston and Gregory D. Johnson of Cumberland, Md., and a 2004 graduate of Allegany High School of Cumberland, Md.

**Edward Reed** of Reston has been awarded a dean's scholarship by Gettysburg College of Gettysburg, Pa.

**Karen Kelleher** of Reston played the Lecturer for recent the University of Mary Washington production of "Reefer Madness." Kelleher is the daughter of Ken and Sheri Kelleher of Reston, a 2007 graduate of Paul VI High School, and a junior theatre major at the university.

**Gabriela Faundez Rojas** of Reston has been named a national out-

standing campus leader and included in the 2009 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Faundez Rojas is majoring in history and in the honors program at Marymount University.

**Summer Marie Thomas** has been named to Episcopal High School's academic honor roll for the first quarter of the 2009-10 school year. Thomas is the daughter of Tracy P. Thomas of Reston.

**Saeid Kian** of Herndon, a freshman majoring in political science in the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Kathryn Riley**, a second-year master's student at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, has been awarded an Association of Environmental Professionals, Channel Counties Chapter, Summer Internship Fellowship. Riley is the daughter of Nancy and Peter Riley of Oak Hill, a 2003 Oakton High School graduate, and a 2007 Virginia Tech graduate.

**Andrew W. Rosser** of Herndon has received a bachelor of arts degree from Western New England College in Springfield, Mass.

Marymount nursing student **Jason Wood** of Herndon has received a \$7,500 BB&T/Inova Scholarship.

**Melissa Tran** of Reston has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Providence College of Providence, R.I. Tran is a member of the class of 2012.

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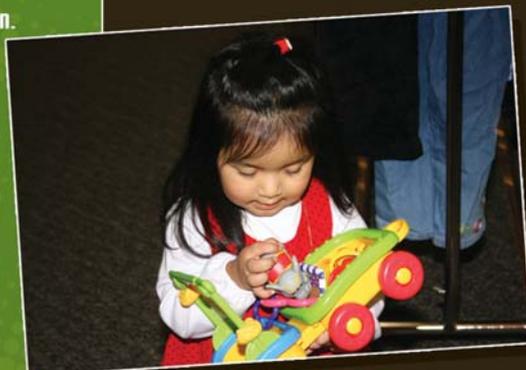
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## Large Classes, Tough Choices

### Opening the doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

One reason for growth in the student population in public school systems in the area right now is the effect of the recession on family budgets. With more than 70,000 unemployed people in Northern Virginia, and thousands more underemployed, some families who did have children in private schools have switched to public school. Given the stellar reputations of the schools in question, it's a rational financial move.

But now growing enrollment and costs combined with stagnant budgets are forcing some local public school systems to rework their budget calculations as well, resulting in more than 30 students in many classes, more than 40 students in some classes.

This will no doubt send some parents back to the family budget drawing board, seeking a way to afford private school and smaller class sizes for their children.

#### EDITORIAL

Most parents don't care very much about the size of the average class, only the sizes of the classes in which their children are trying to learn.

Very large classes, especially classes with 30 or more students in them, are a detriment to learning. Students with any sort of challenges are particularly poorly served by large classes. Very large classes also make the

task of maintaining a civil school environment much more difficult.

Schools would do well to focus first on limiting very large classes, worrying a bit less about average class size.

It's also an excellent time to begin paving the way for charter schools in Virginia. What, in the middle of a financial crunch? If we start now to develop more encouraging guidelines for charter schools in the region, by the time the first schools are open, the economic climate will be vastly different.

Public schools cannot meet all the needs of all the students that come through the doors. Families deserve some well-constructed alternatives. Governor-elect Bob McDonnell, along with President Obama, is right to push to open the doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

## Back in Richmond

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

I have moved to Richmond, at least for the weekdays for the next two months the General Assembly is in session. While the session will present enormous challenges, the relocation of one's workplace for a couple of months each year causes disruption and anxieties. I am fortunate to be

returning to a small apartment in a townhome in the Church Hill section of Richmond just a block from St. John's Church where Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech. My early morning walks take me past the church; and as the name of the community suggests, up and down the hills and streets of beautiful townhomes. I have my morning breakfast of Cheerios, blueberries, bananas and orange juice in my apartment. My drive to the General Assembly Building is less than five minutes.

The days begin early with some meetings scheduled as early as 7 a.m. Certainly the place is filled with people by 9 a.m., and meetings often overlap and fill the day. Mornings and afternoons are filled with subcommittee and committee meetings. At noon, the House and Senate go into session. Lunch is most often eaten at one's desk on the House floor. Depending upon the bills that have been reported from committee, the daily floor session can go from less than an hour to most of the day. There are galleries in the House and the Senate where the public can view

the sessions. The basic rules governing the conduct of business are taken from Jefferson's Manual. Committee sessions where most of the work is done on bills are open to the public. Members of the public are invited to testify on proposed legislation.

Considering that more than 3,000 bills and resolutions and a biennial budget will be considered during the session, the pace of activity is brisk. That means that the need for legislation must be clear and immediate, or the bill will probably not pass. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is one of the controlling principles. Another consideration that carries a lot of weight is whether the bill will lead to more and bigger government. It's the "camel's nose under the tent" or a "multiflora rose" as bills that have the potential to expand government are described.

The legislative process is a three-legged stool. Before a bill can become a law, it must be passed in identical form by the House of Delegates and the Senate and signed by the governor. Each body and the executive branch bring



unique perspectives to the process. And from time to time partisanship has been known to slip into the discussion. Both major parties have caucus meetings daily to keep their members informed. I chair the Democratic Caucus in the House of Delegates.

When meetings end in the late afternoon, there are numerous opportunities to meet with constituents and representatives at various receptions, dinners and meetings. While the social aspects of these gatherings are most often emphasized, they are educational as well to learn about issues and to meet knowledgeable people. And then back to the apartment. I appreciate its quiet and privacy. I turn in fairly early because 5:30 a.m. comes around quickly.

Contact me in Richmond through my regular e-mail address, kenplum@aol.com, or call my local legislative office number, 703-758-9733. Your call will be forwarded to my Richmond office without a long distance charge to you. You can write to me at P.O. Box 406, Richmond, VA 23218.

### 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: reston@connectionnewspapers.com

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lifesaving Bill

To the Editor,

As a two-time cancer survivor I was encouraged that the Senate passed its health care reform legislation before the Christmas holiday. It was an early gift for cancer patients, survivors and their families, who are closer than ever to reaping the benefits of historic legislation that will dramatically improve the health care system in this country.

The experiences of families affected by cancer highlight the major problems in our health care system. The difficult and complex road that begins with a diagnosis, cancer patients can encounter all of the major problems in the health care system today. They are often denied coverage because of preexisting condition exclusions or charged more than they can afford for critical care simply because they have cancer.

If enacted, this bill could have immediate and lasting benefits for millions of people with cancer and other life-threatening chronic diseases. Getting a cancer diagnosis would no longer put families at risk of being denied or getting priced out of lifesaving coverage.

This is a critical point in the war against cancer. And I would like to thank Sens. Warner and Webb for putting patients before politics by voting in favor of this lifesaving bill.

Thank you Sen. Warner and Sen. Webb for standing up and looking out for cancer patients.

**Jim Radmore**  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Volunteer  
Herndon

SEE OPINION, PAGE 15

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# CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Reston District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Jan. 8.

## PEEPING/ ARREST

**2300 block of Freetown Court.** Police charged a man with peeping on Tuesday, Dec. 29. A 13-year-old girl was inside an apartment in the 2300 block of Freetown Court. She passed by a window around 1:24 a.m. and noticed a man standing on the outside peering in. She told a 63-year-old woman who was in the apartment with her and the woman confronted the suspect, who turned and walked away. Officers located the suspect nearby and a brief investigation led to his arrest. A 19-year-old male of the 12000 block of Greywing Square, Reston, was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with peeping.

## ROBBERY/ AGGRAVATED MALICIOUS WOUNDING/ ABDUCTION FOR PECUNIARY BENEFIT

**2200 block of Cocquina Drive.** A 26-year-old man was struck with a hammer on Tuesday, Dec. 29 while attending a party in the 2200 block of Cocquina Drive. Around 1:30 a.m., a woman at the party allegedly noticed money missing from her purse. Two men, who were acquaintances with the woman, walked outside and returned holding a hammer and a cutting tool. They demanded that everyone empty their pockets. The victim refused and one suspect struck him multiple times with the hammer; both suspects fled. The victim was transported to the Reston Hospital Center with non life-threatening injuries. Officers have

obtained warrants for aggravated malicious wounding, abduction for pecuniary benefit, and robbery.

## ROBBERY

**1500 block of Moorings Drive.** A woman was robbed in the 1500 block of Moorings Drive on Tuesday, Jan. 5 as she exited her car. The 35-year-old victim parked her car around 12:30 a.m. and as she got out, someone struck her in the face and she fell to the ground. The suspect took her wallet and fled. The victim did not require medical treatment. 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.

## UPDATE: HOMICIDE

**11900 block of Winterthur Lane.** The Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has classified the death of Karen Deck, of the 1500 block of Inlet Court, as a homicide. Police responded to the 11900 block of Winterthur Lane on Saturday, Oct. 24, around 3:40 p.m. to check on the welfare of an adult man. They located a man sitting inside. The body of a 42-year-old woman was also found inside the apartment with an apparent gunshot wound to the upper body. The investigation continues but police do not believe there are any threats to public safety. Charges are pending.

## LARCENIES

**1600 block of Becontree Lane.** iPod stolen from business.

## 1700 block of Clubhouse Road.

Purse stolen from business.  
**1700 block of Jumper Court.** GPS and iPod stolen from vehicle.  
**10900 block of Leesburg Pike.** Tires stolen from vehicle.

**2300 block of Meadow Willow Circle.** License plate stolen from vehicle.

**11600 block of Plaza America Drive.** Jacket and wallet stolen from business.

**Ridge Heights Road/Chadds Ford Drive.** License plates stolen from vehicle.

**2200 block of Stone Wheel Drive.** License plate stolen from vehicle.

**2100 block of Westglade Court.** License plate stolen from vehicle.

## VEHICLE THEFTS

**11800 block of Breton Court.** 2007 Audi.

Activities reported by the Fair Oaks District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Jan. 8.

## LARCENIES

**2900 block of Ashdown Forest Drive.** Gift card stolen from residence.

**9500 block of Blake Lane.** Guitar and amplifier stolen from residence.

**9500 block of Blake Lane.** Beer stolen from business.

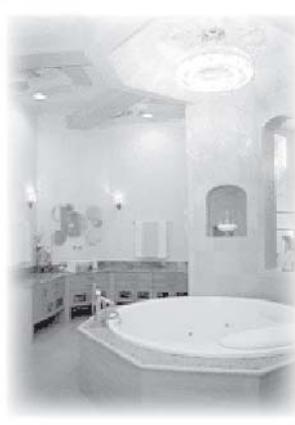
**2900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** Alcohol stolen from business.

**2400 block of Glengyle Drive.** Radio stolen from vehicle.

**2500 block of Glengyle Drive.** GPS stolen from vehicle.

**12000 block of Government Center Parkway.** Art stolen from business.

**12300 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway.** Laptop computer stolen from business.



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# 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. 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.  
**Staged Reading Series: 410[Gone] by Frances Chu-Cowhig.** 7:30 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street Suite #103, Reston. [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

## 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).  
**Daedalus Quartet.** 8 p.m. at The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org) or 703-938-2404.

## 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 include:

\*Reston Teen Center, 12196 Sunset Hills Drive, Reston.

## John Jennings & Friends.

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

## 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).

## MONDAY/JAN. 18

**Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day.** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Dewberry Hall in the Johnson Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Volunteer for multiple nonprofit agencies at one

## Hungrytown Comes to Herndon

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon presents the Hungrytown (Ken Anderson and Rebecca Halls) on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:15 p.m. at 648 Elden St., in Herndon, in the Back Room at the Tortilla Factory. Tickets: \$12 (\$11 members). See Dave Hurd Tuesdays at The Folk Club or e-mail: [DAHurdSr@cs.com](mailto:DAHurdSr@cs.com) More information at: [www.restonherndonfolkclub.com](http://www.restonherndonfolkclub.com) and <http://rebeccaandken.com/>.



## Sonrise to Perform at Holy Cross Church

Sonrise, a gospel bluegrass band from Fredericksburg, known as masters of four part vocal harmony, will perform on Saturday, Jan. 16 in the Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road in Herndon. Show time is at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$12. For information or reservation call 703-435-8377.

central location. Service projects will benefit populations served by FACETS, Fairfax 4-H, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and the Orphan Foundation of America. Pre-registration encouraged at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org). Contact 703-246-3826 or [swatson@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:swatson@volunteerfairfax.org).  
**Annandale High School Chorus: Broadway Desserts.** 7 p.m. at George Mason University Cultural Arts Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$20. 703-916-0232 or [pam.odon@verizon.net](mailto:pam.odon@verizon.net).  
**Reston Photography Program.** 7:30 p.m. at The Reston Photographic Society, 7:30 pm, Reston Community Court at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza. Steve Silverstein on night photography. Free. [erosenberg@cox.net](mailto:erosenberg@cox.net) or 703-855-4008.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 21

**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.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 23

**Reston Author Book Signing.** 2 p.m.

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

**Study Smart in Less Time.** 6:30 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Free tutoring with our expert guest speaker, including tips for smart studying. Age 12 and up. 703-437-8855.

**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. 20

**English Conversation Group.** 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for

## TUESDAY/JAN. 19

**Colvin Run Community Center**

adults non-native speakers every Wednesday. 703-242-4020.  
**My Father's War.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Guest author Jan Elvin discusses her book, The Box from Braunau: In Search of My Father's War. 703-242-4020.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 21

**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.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 23

**Reston Author Book Signing.** 2 p.m.

## SUNDAY/JAN 24

**The Band of the Irish Guards and the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The U. S. debut of the Band of the Irish Guards, with marches, sailor ballads and Celtic folk songs. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier. \$24-\$48. Youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

## MONDAY/JAN. 25

**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.  
**Creatures of the Night.** 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Bats and beavers, foxes and flying squirrels. 703-689-2700.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 26

**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).  
**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.

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**FAIRFAX**

10725 Norman Ave..... \$539,000..Sun 1-4.....Weichert.....Ron Fowler..... 703-598-0511  
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11611 Yates Ford Rd.....\$767,000..Sun 1-4.....Karen Paris.....Keller Williams.....571-220-7503

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639 Nalls Farm Way.....\$1,995,000..Sun 1-4.....Weichert.....Carol Ellickson.....703-862-2135

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2216 Cartwright Place.....\$275,000..Sun 1-4.....McEneaney.....Deb Pietras..... 703-967-2400

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**VIENNA**

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

NEWS

Area Families Will Feel School Budget Crunch

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Superintendent Jack Dale wants to ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for an additional \$57.8 million in funding to help meet Fairfax County Public Schools budget needs next year, according to a presentation he made to the school board Jan. 7.

Fairfax already allocates the school system approximately \$1.7 billion annually, or about 53 percent of the county's overall revenue. But Dale said the schools are facing a projected shortfall of \$166 million in the 2010-2011 school year, in part due to rising costs that are out of the system's control.

The additional money equates to an increase of three-cents per \$100 of assessed land value in the Fairfax County real estate property tax rate.

In addition to requesting more money from the county, Dale has suggested \$108.2 million in spending cuts to assist in closing the schools system's projected funding gap for next year.

The superintendent added that the quality of Fairfax County public education system will suffer as a result of the cuts.

"We spend the same amount of money on schools as Montgomery County, Md. but we have 30,000 more students than they do," said Dale, referencing Fairfax's largest public education rival in the region.

Dale does not ultimately make the decision about the Fairfax schools' budget. The school board – largely relying on the

superintendent's budget proposal as a template –will make its formal request for funding from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors next month.

In late April, the supervisors will pass an annual countywide budget and announce how much they intend to allocate to Fairfax schools overall next year.

Some school board members have already indicated that they would like to ask the county for funding above and beyond what Dale has suggested.

**New Fees For Families**

To make up for the budget shortfall, Dale is proposing \$3.4 million in new fees for families and students, such as:

- ❖ a \$75 charge for any Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam a student takes
- ❖ a \$100 student fee for participating on a sports team

**Proposed programs for elimination**

Dale has proposed the elimination of the following services:

- ❖ "behind the wheel" drivers education. Fairfax students would now have to depend on the private sector for such training.
- ❖ bus service to "gifted and talented" centers if a base school has "gifted and talented" equivalent classes available.
- ❖ bus service to academy programs if there are fewer than five students enrolled in the program from a high school.
- ❖ freshman athletics, indoor track and winter cheerleading
- ❖ foreign language in the el-

ementary schools (not including immersion programs)

❖ elementary "focus" programs (currently present at Riverside, Fort Hunt, Hollin Meadows, Woodley Hills elementary schools in Mount Vernon; Lake Anne and Forest Edge elementary schools in Reston; Kent Gardens Elementary School in McLean; Daniels Run Elementary School in Fairfax)

❖Pimmit Hills Alternative High School in Falls Church

❖Modified School Calendar (currently present at Dogwood Elementary School in Reston, Franconia Elementary School in the Springfield area, and Timber Lane Elementary School in the McLean area)

❖Project Excel (currently present at Bucknell, Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon Woods, Riverside, Woodlawn, Woodley Hills and Fort Belvoir elementary schools in the Mount Vernon area; Dogwood Elementary School in Reston; Hutchinson Elementary School in Herndon; Halley Elementary School in Fairfax Station; and London Towne Elementary School in Centreville)

❖Most traditional summer school programs

**Other Budget Actions**

Dale has also proposed the following:

- ❖ To increase class size by one student per teacher for all classes except special education.
- ❖ To freeze employees salaries and not give school system staff a "cost of living" increase in the next year.

Brownie Troop Spreads Holiday Cheer

**Brownie Troop 678 of Reston prepared a holiday treat for the Backpack Buddy program at a recent meeting. The Backpack Buddy is an organization that provides weekend food for children from Title One schools through the Giving Circle of Hope. The Scouts chose this charity for their holiday service project because they wanted to help local children. For more information about the Backpack Buddy program, contact Connie Laurent-Roy at 703-318-8850 or Sandy Amato at 703-405-2631.**



# BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 14

**Reston Historic Trust Annual Meeting.** 5 p.m. at the Reston Museum & Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. All are welcome to attend and meet the board of directors. 703-709-7700 or [www.restonmuseum.org](http://www.restonmuseum.org).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 16

**CASA Volunteers Information**

**Session.** 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free, reservations required at 703-273-3526, ext. 22 or [ekosarian@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarian@casafairfax.org). [www.casafairfax.org](http://www.casafairfax.org).

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

**New audiology practice** in McLean, AudioSync Audiology & Hearing, will be sponsoring a Hearing Health Seminar with guest speaker Dave Fabry, Ph.D. at 4:30 p.m. at the Reston Hospital Center – West Wing, Room B, located at 1850 Town Center in Reston. The Hearing Health Seminar is an open forum, lead by

Dr. Fabry, to learn more about the hearing ability, solutions to hearing loss and be able to have questions and concerns answered.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 21

**2010 Committee for Dulles Annual Meeting.** 11:30 a.m. at Hyatt Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. With James A. Wilding, former President and CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The Committee also will install its 2010 officers and members of the board of directors. [www.hyattdulles.com](http://www.hyattdulles.com).

# MLK Awards Announced

FROM PAGE 3

about being drug-free; and Peace Week “Paws/Pause for Peace” educating students on peaceful mediation methods of conflict resolution. Through these efforts, the Peer Mediation Program at Hughes has been directly involved in creating a positive school environment that aids in reducing prejudice and youth violence.

**Reston Interfaith (Organization)** - Reston Interfaith has worked in the greater Reston area since 1970, providing attractive and affordable housing in the community, a child development center and parent education/support, food and financial assistance, and other programs that help men, women and children live successfully in the community. No other Reston organization so completely lives the ideals of the world Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. sought.

Reston Interfaith uses the foundations of love, concern, compassion and healing in every faith community to build the beloved community that Dr. King envisioned. Reston fulfills the promise of such a place because of the broad-based, community-wide collaborative and caring approach to solving the problems of poverty and social inequity and providing opportunities to all to reach their potential. Participants in Reston Interfaith programs don't just benefit from help; they become givers themselves as they make positive changes in their lives. These are the strong threads that bind the community together and that Reston Interfaith weaves into the fabric of Reston's life.

**Global Camps Africa (Special Award for International Impact by a Reston-based Organization)** - Global Camps Africa has mobilized the Reston

community in the spirit of Dr. King. The community has opened its heart to the children of South Africa and responded with an outpouring of energy, enthusiasm and love. Global Camps Africa has been Reston's own international humanitarian organization since 2003. Hundreds of Reston residents have donated their time and expertise to Global Camps Africa through fund raisers, art shows and special events as well as helped to sponsor legislation, donated facilities and supplies, and volunteered in the Reston office and at camps. Many Reston residents have traveled to South Africa at their own expense to be volunteer counselors at the camps. Global Camps Africa embodies Dr. King's legacy, rooted in its core curriculum of tolerance, especially of those being discriminated against due to HIV/AIDS, peaceful conflict resolution and most importantly, respect and love for one another.

# Lake Anne

FROM PAGE 3

Faubert, who has owned the restaurant for 21 years, said he did expect to retire in perhaps five years or so but was looking for “an outstanding young chef — someone better than me” to become his understudy and eventually take

over the business.

“The Roti Grill has come in and they're doing very well. Everyone is happy to have them there,” Thompson said, referring to the Pakistani eatery that opened at the beginning of November. Assuming that the Tavern property sells, she

said, the only unoccupied space left on the plaza will be the former drycleaners. Lakeside Pharmacy owner Larry Cohn put his space up for sale last month, but Thompson said she was optimistic that a desirable business would take over the property.

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# SPORTS

RESTON CONNECTION SPORTS EDITOR RICH SANDERS  
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## Herndon Girls Visit Maryland Hoops Practice

**Hornets are off to a solid 7-4 start this winter.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Herndon High girls' basketball team got a taste of Terrapins' fever Saturday morning, Jan. 9.

The Hornets, members of the Northern Region's Concorde District, were invited to watch the University of Maryland women's basketball team practice at Comcast Center in College Park. Coach Reggie Barnes' team was thrilled with the opportunity to watch the Terrapins up close. So the Herndon team, after hopping on the beltway early Saturday morning, arrived on campus and took in the nationally renowned Maryland team's 10 a.m. practice session.

"I wanted them to see how a major Division 1 school goes about practice," said Barnes, who brought both his varsity and JV squads.

Maryland assistant coach Dave Atkins, an acquaintance of Barnes', was the Terrapin contact that set up the visit.

Barnes wanted players within his program to watch firsthand how hard players at the collegiate level work out and the intensity level that goes into college practice sessions.

"The intensity and energy level at that level is different than in high school," said Barnes.

Brenda Frese, the Terrapins' eighth year head coach, spent a few minutes addressing the Herndon program.

"She told us that every day in practice you need to improve [a part of your game] and come with the mindset of getting better," said Barnes, recalling Frese's words to the Hornets. "She asked them how they were doing in the classroom, and if they were working hard [on the court] and were they coachable. It was not what was being said [as much as] who was saying it. She's a major college coach who won a national championship [with Maryland in 2006]."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL  
THE CONNECTION

**Herndon High's Phyllis Martin goes up for a shot during the Hornets' recent 50-38 home loss to South County on Jan. 5. Herndon (7-4) will be home against Westfield this Friday night.**

Barnes said his team members watched the Maryland team conduct two-on-two drills in which fundamentals such as setting screens, feeding the ball inside and communication between teammates were stressed. He said the Maryland players worked hard, accepted instruction from the Terrapin coaches and encouraged one another even when mistakes were made.

Some of the Maryland players mingled with the Herndon team members following practice.

One of the morning highlights for the Herndon program was receiving an informal tour of the Comcast Center and checking out the showcase area in which the university's athletic past is celebrated with pictures, trophy's and Terrapin keepsakes. The Herndon players even saw a picture of Christy Winters-Scott, a former Maryland women's basketball standout and the current coach of Herndon rival South Lakes.

**ON THE FLOOR,** it has been a successful season thus far for Barnes' team, which was 7-4 going into this week. The Hornets came up short last Friday night at powerful Oakton, 74-47. The unbeaten Cougars are the defending Northern Region champions and the state AAA runner-up.

"With the experience Oakton has, you can fall behind fast," said Barnes, whose team trailed 31-9 at halftime. "They get good production off the bench."

Herndon had two players — senior guard/forward Alexis Lewis (13 points) and senior guard Phyllis Martin (11) — finish the game in double figures scoring. Other good games for the Hornets came from junior guards Rachel Liebenstein (6 points) and Shequilla Ferguson (solid defense), as well as sophomore guard Deborah Headen (6 points) and senior guard Jasmine Johnson (5).

For Oakton, point guard Caroline Coyer and shooting guard Zora Stephenson, both returning starters from last year's state runner-ups, finished with 19 points each.

The 5-foot-9 inch Lewis, Herndon's leading scorer this season, is a fourth-year varsity starter for the Hornets.

"She's a very smart player and is a difficult matchup for guards she faces," said Barnes. "She can post up smaller players and drive around bigger guards."

Lewis missed five weeks of last year's season because of a knee injury. But she has come back strong this winter. She scored 24 points in Herndon's 72-67 home loss to cross-town rival South Lakes on Dec. 18.

Martin, Herndon's point guard, is another formidable backcourt player. The Hornet playmaker is averaging nine points per game and getting her teammates involved in the offense with good passing. "She's a leader and a coach on the floor," said Barnes, of Martin. "She's been in the battles in the Concorde District [over the years] and she's continued to improve her game."

Herndon's top frontcourt player is 6-1 senior Carlon Chambers, who recently signed a collegiate letter of intent to play basketball at Norfolk State. Chambers is averaging close to 10 points per game.

"She's athletic, strong and able to get up and down the court well for a girl her size," said Barnes.

Herndon was scheduled to play district games this week at Centreville on Tuesday, Jan. 12 and at home against Westfield this Friday night, Jan. 15.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## Sehawks Girls Improve to 9-3 Overall, 3-1 in District

**Christy Winters Scott, head coach of the South Lakes High girls' basketball team, has seen her Seahawks play impressive basketball over the first half of the season. The team improved to 9-3 overall and 3-1 in Liberty District play following a 56-45 home win over Stone Bridge (9-2) Thursday night, Jan. 7. In the victory, South Lakes received a balanced scoring effort with solid contributions coming from Marlena Tremba (16 points), Ashlei Sutton (15), Zoe Beard-Fails (9) and Gabrielle Schultz (9). The Seahawks will host Fairfax in a district game this Friday night.**

## Expanded Softball Opportunities for Local Girls

**G**irls in the Reston area, ages 6-16, 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 (ages 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.

In 2008, Great Falls Little League Softball 10-11 All Star team won the District 4 championship and went on to play at the Virginia State Little League Championship in Bristol, Va., taking third place. Since then, the Great Falls softball program has grown in number, capability and competitiveness, and now provides to all registered players free, professionally-run, weekly clinics for pitching, catching, and batting as a supplement to the practices and games during the season. The mission of the program is to provide

girls with the opportunity to grow as athletes on and off the field, while playing a game they can enjoy through and beyond high school.

The Nike Park complex contains several baseball diamonds, soccer/lacrosse fields, and a regulation softball field (No. 6), which is the home of the approximately 110 girls currently enrolled in the program. The program also has partial use of the Grange field on Georgetown Pike, adjacent to the Great Falls Library, during the spring season, and may also use some Reston fields in the coming spring.

In addition to the expansion of the program to Reston area girls, the district boundaries for girls living in the 22066 Zip code (Great Falls) have been adjusted with McLean Little League Softball to allow all girls residing in Great Falls to play within the Great Falls Little League Softball program. Previously, an area of southeast Great Falls (Difficult Run/Route 7/Towlston Road) had been assigned to play in the McLean program. This boundary has been fixed to allow girls to play within their school pyramid boundaries.

Registration is open as of Jan. 1 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>.

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# OPINION

## LINK 2009 in Review

BY LINDA KEEFER &  
LISA LOMBARDOZZI

This LINK 2009 year was only possible because of the hundreds of volunteers (and possibly a thousand) who each had a little part to make these programs all work. Thank you to everyone who responded to our last minute pleas for help when we agreed to do the Christmas event with just a few hours notice due to the great blizzard and then repeat it all again three days later.

Thank you to the families and youth organizations who collected food, clothing or toys, the businesses that donated funding, food, toys, clothes, boxes, bags, grocery carts and the schools (both public and private) who coordinated drives for LINK. Thank you to the folks who stepped forward to move heavy boxes, shop for food and toys and drove many miles to obtain items that were left off the "To Do List."

And finally, thank you to the LINK Board and Committee Members. You worked in a soldierly manner giving so much time to make this program succeed. Thank you for going without sleep, for reflecting the true light that gives light to every man, for keeping a smile on your face, for being patient during times of stress, and for ensuring the success of this program by responding to the LINK needs when we experienced inclement weather. You are amazing individuals!

LINK is an all volunteer organization comprising 18 local Churches. Our motivations are rooted in spirit, mercy and responsibility to others.

LINK is a powerful opportunity to serve God, model Jesus' teaching and to provide an example to others that they can participate too! Through our hard work and commitment LINK members donate thousands of volunteer hours each year in supporting needy people. LINK volunteers supply an added measure of determination, skill and teamwork and provide enhanced community awareness to those local people living in their time of greatest need.

LINK strongly believes that assisting those less fortunate with their most basic needs fosters hope and good will among our diverse and fast growing community. Unconditional love that flows freely is the simplest and purest of all acts. A used winter coat, four bags of non-perishables, a grocery gift certificate, two toys for a child at Christmas, these are the simplest of acts.

During the entire year, LINK made a record 988 direct deliveries to the homes of needy families comprising 4,309 people. \$19,885.00 in grocery gift certificates was also distributed. \$8,396.00 in financial assistance was distributed to those needing help to pay heating and electric bills. Over the last seven years, 48 percent of the food deliveries were in Fairfax County and 52 percent were in Loudoun.

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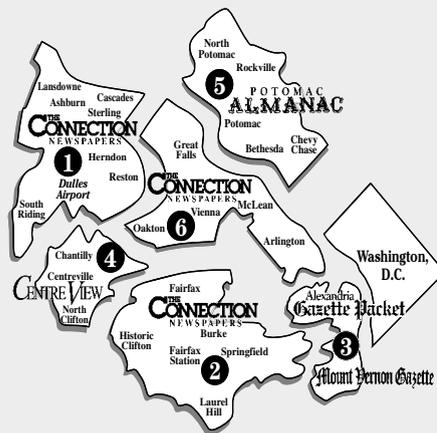
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## CSI: Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I think I've been watching "CSI" and "NCIS" (along with spin offs CSI: Miami, CSI: NY and NCIS: Los Angeles) too long. After an unknown neighbor cleaned 18 inches of snow off my second car (I had cleaned off our primary car myself; it was closer to the road), in an attempt to determine who unselfishly "unsnowed" my buried car and shoveled all around it as well (to provide easy access, should I be so inclined), I looked first for physical evidence of this extremely good deed and noticed boot prints in the snow. (Determining directionality was impossible given the number of intersecting boot prints.) I only wish I would have had the same materials the CSIs have on television (presumably in real life, too) in order to secure the evidence for further inside consideration and avoid any degradation. Said consideration would have included having the appropriate materials on hand to make a plaster cast of the boot print which I then could scan and run through the boot-tread software to determine a size and hopefully find a brand/tread-pattern match.

Once having learned the brand and the size, I could then call the manufacturer to inquire what stores locally carried that brand - and size - of boot. With that information, I could then contact the stores directly (in person or over the phone) to see if the specific matching size and brand had been sold recently. If any matches were found, I could ask for sales receipts to see how payment had been made. If any payments had been made with a credit card, it would enable me to quickly identify the non-guilty but so far, anonymous party. If payments had been made with cash, I could then visit the stores myself and bring pictures of my neighbors to show to whomever had sold the matching brand and size boot to further corroborate the non-D.N.A. evidence and hopefully make a positive I.D. If one of my neighbors was picked out of the photo array, I believe I would then have sufficient evidence/information to confirm who was responsible for this non-random act of kindness.

Or I could just ask.

Nevertheless, no good deed of such caring and unselfish concern - and sensitivity to another person's less than ideal medical situation (my stage IV lung cancer diagnosis, with which the neighborhood is keenly aware) - should go unacknowledged. As such, I want to give/express my heartfelt gratitude to my neighbor/neighbors who gave so selflessly of themselves and their time to do for me what I was not so inclined/able to do for myself. And even though the "act" performed here this snow-bound Sunday was no crime, I think its commission would make Gil Grissom, Horatio "H." Caine, Mac Taylor, Leroy "Jethro" Gibbs and "G" Callen proud of their fellow man. I sure am. And lucky as well, to be living amongst such kind and considerate individuals.

It makes my future, with all its uncertainty, less uncertain. And if there's one thing, other than love and positive vibrations that a cancer patient can't have enough of, it's certainty. Of that, I'm certain.

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

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Fern Jennings Frutchey, 76, passed away December 29, 2009 in Reston, VA of complications stemming from Alzheimer's Disease.

Fern was born September 27, 1933 in Lee County, VA. Fern, along with her parents and brother, James, moved to Martinsville, VA in the early 1940's, where Fern graduated as valedictorian of her class at Martinsville High School in 1952. She received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Madison College (now James Madison University) in 1956 and a Masters degree in World History from American University in 1968.

Fern moved to Northern Virginia after college, working as a World History teacher at Hammond High School from 1956-1965. Fern was known and respected as a knowledgeable and sometimes tough teacher. She married Don Frutchey in 1958. They first lived in Arlington, VA and soon moved to Annandale, VA where they started their family. Fern, Don, Donald and David moved to Reston, VA in 1974 where they built a new home; Debra was born that same year.

Fern was an active member of her college sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma, for over 56 years, where she served in leadership roles and received the National Steadfast Alumnae Award in 1998, honoring her commitment to the sorority's civic endeavors.

Over the years, Fern supported and actively participated as a volunteer and leader in other organizations including American Red Cross, Cancer Society, MS Society and Reston Lioness Club. She was a long-time active member of United Christian Parish in Reston, VA where she led the Flower Committee and served on the Vestry.

Fern was a devoted and loving daughter, sister, teacher, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She dedicated her life to caring for family, learning, teaching and service. Fern never put herself first, giving unconditionally to her family, friends and community. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Don Frutchey, and three children Donald Jr., David and Debra, and her four grandchildren, Carson, Spencer, Peyton and Sydney, all living in Reston, VA. Fern is also survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Memorial Contributions to:  
Alzheimer's Association  
PO Box 96011  
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or  
Sigma Sigma Sigma Foundation  
225 N. Muhlenberg Street  
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# OPINION Going AWOL!

BY JACK KENNY  
PAST PRESIDENT, REPUBLICAN CLUB OF  
GREATER RESTON



and the benefits accruing to the American economy. Investors in companies expect a return on their investment. That return is mostly reinvested in opportunities that fuel the

growth of our economy and by extension, our quality of life. Yet, we see class warfare against the driving force against the finest health care system in the world and our quality of life. Sure, it has faults like democracy has faults but it's the best system so far. Do we really want to destroy it? Why not just fix the two broken parts?

The question remains: Where are the senators and representative that should be protecting our interests? We have had one Town Hall, the attendance of which was overshadowed by the attendance at the Tea Party gathering on the Baron Cameron soccer fields. Our congressman had not read the bill and was not able to discuss the bill but had to import an expert who had been fired by voters to explain it. We have yet to hear from our senators, both of whom have consistently voted the party line like Obama-Reid lemmings in spite of their offices being bombarded by phone calls, faxes, letters and polls showing overwhelming opposition to any health care bill.

A case in point: Sen. Mark Warner (D) campaigned on the pledge of a tight-fisted approach to federal spending. Warner has voted as anything but an example of Virginia fiscal conservatism. One may ponder if his desire for a national office is driving his votes. Do we have a senator named Webb?

We have a defective bill that is being challenged by 19 states' attorney generals as violating the Constitution. We have representation that does not understand the law of our Founding Fathers. Instead of our elected representatives, we will have nine men and women in black that will decide our health care system. What a cop out. We need a change in our representation. They are not listening to the voters and soon will be subject to the whims of the electorate.

As the current status of the great HealthCare debate continues, we can expect two provisions to come into play. First, the tax provisions of the proposed plan are expected to start immediately. Secondly, most of the benefits will not start until 2013 with the exception of covering the supposedly 9 million Americans who for what ever reason are not tuned into the responsibilities of taking care of themselves or are just plain totally irresponsible. Some are uninsurable and should be helped. However, there are not 9 million citizens in that boat. Another group that will be covered is the estimated 21 million non-citizens (read illegal immigrants). Thus, whatever version finally if ever becomes reality, the quick imposition of taxes is critical to avoid an even larger budget deficit.

The taxes to be imposed include the drug companies, the medical insurance companies, and the makers/suppliers of medical devices. Medical devices include the prosthetic limbs, walkers, and wheel chairs — even the powered ones now guaranteed by Medicare if we follow the TV advertisements. Where is the Americans for Disability Act?

In the face of our economic difficulties, the cost of prescription drugs will increase. As a result, our medical insurance costs will increase to cover the rise in prescription drug costs. Less of our disposable income will be available for other necessities. However, most of us know that taxes on any industry or company are passed on to the consumer. Does the Congress think we have just fallen off a turnip truck?

One of the contentious provisions currently under consideration is to make all medical insurance companies not-for-profit organizations with caps on executive compensation. This unprecedented interference with industry is a direct attack on the principles of investments. Does Obama and the Congress understand capital investments

## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com) Deadline is Thursday.

**Jewish Program on Business Ethics.** The Hazak Active Retirees Chapter of Congregation Beth Emeth in Herndon will present Rabbi Steven Glazer on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m. Congregation Beth Emeth's Rabbi Steven Glazer will discuss business ethics. The CBE Hazak Chapter presents a uniquely Jewish program on the third Tuesday of each month — September through June — at this same time. Meetings feature prominent speakers and entertainers, providing area Jewish seniors with a time to socialize and learn. The program is free to CBE Hazak members and \$3 for guests. Light refreshments are served. For more information, call 703-860-4515, ext. 127. Congregation Beth Emeth is located at 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon, 2.9 miles south of the Dulles Toll Road, Reston Parkway Exit.

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

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

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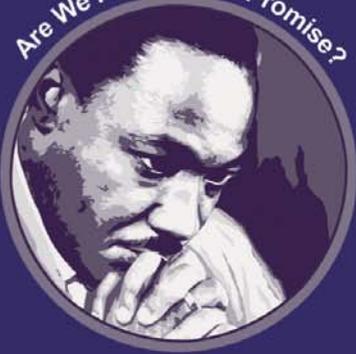
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# Reston 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

## 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.

### 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

### Keynote Address and Community Service Awards

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

### 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

### 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

All events are free and open to the public.



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.



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