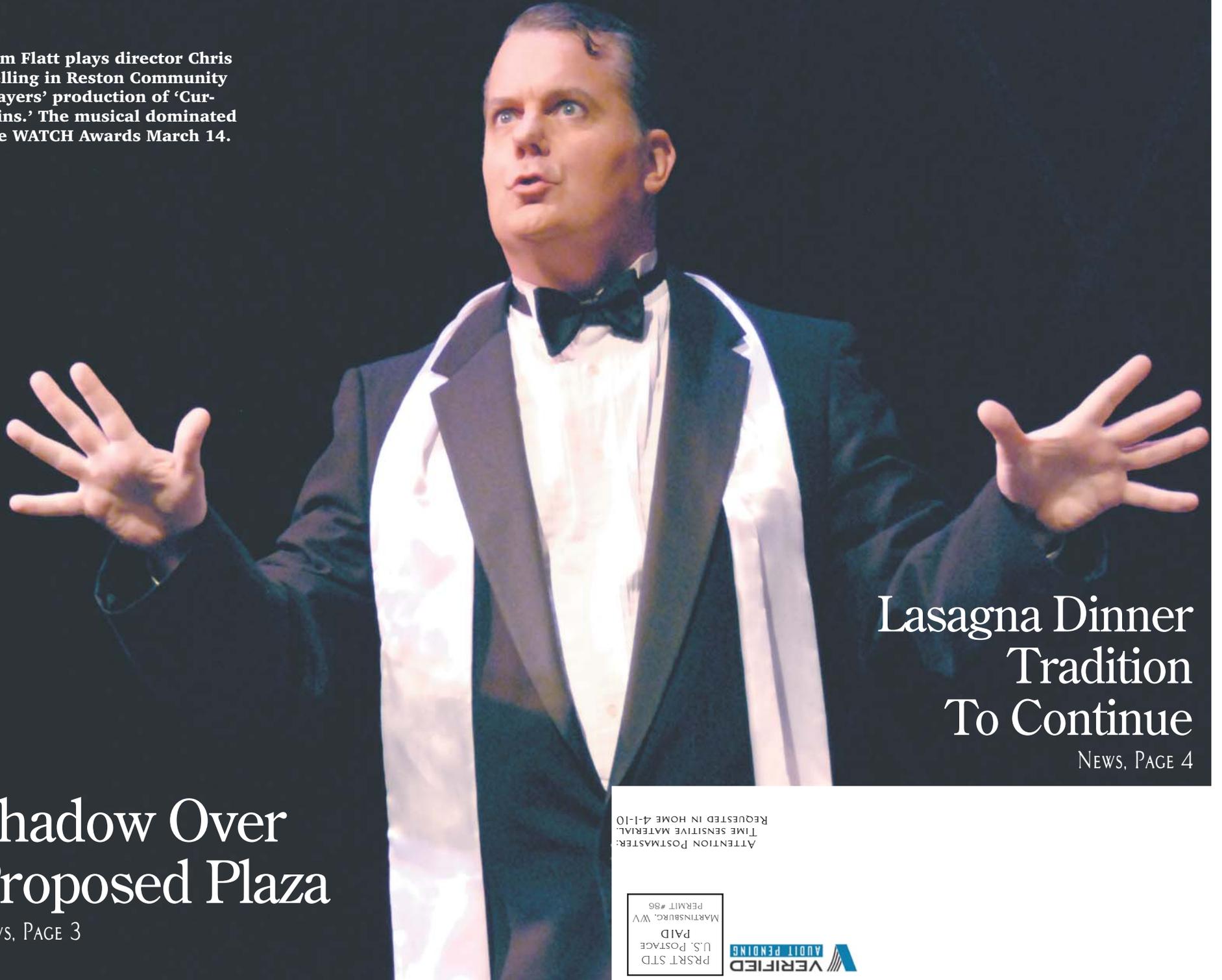


Reston Players Clean Up

NEWS, PAGE 8

Tom Flatt plays director Chris Belling in Reston Community Players' production of 'Curtains.' The musical dominated the WATCH Awards March 14.



Lasagna Dinner
Tradition
To Continue

NEWS, PAGE 4

Shadow Over
Proposed Plaza

NEWS, PAGE 3

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

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ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING | 10

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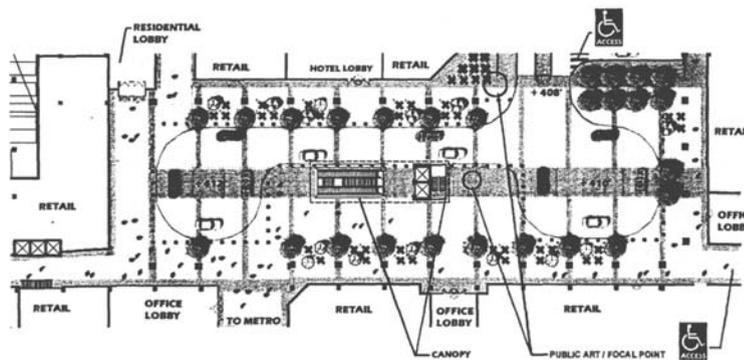
ILLUSTRATION COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY

This illustration depicts the proposed Comstock Partners development at the Wiehle Avenue Metro Station at full build-out.

Shadow Over Proposed Plaza

Staff recommends denial but says developer has continued to cooperate.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION



The plaza that is to be located at the center of the development has been a source of contention, as residents and the county worry that traffic and a lack of sunshine will make it inhospitable.

Richard McCary, president-elect of the Committee for Dulles, said his organization was a longtime supporter of the Metro line to Dulles Airport and recognized that parking around the planned rail stations was a critical element of the plan. Thus, he said, the committee commended Comstock Partners for the firm's "imaginative and efficient" approach to meeting that need.

The developer has entered into a joint development agreement with the county, whereby Comstock will pay for the construction of a 2,300-space underground garage to serve the coming Wiehle Avenue Metro Station and then build its own mixed-use development on top of the structure.

However, McCary told the county Planning Commission at its public hearing on Comstock's rezoning application last Thursday, March 25 that such a development had high standards to live up to.

"As yet, we do not feel that exceptionally high standards of development have been met," he said.

AMONG THE CONCERNS raised by those who testified at the meeting, as well as some of the planning commissioners, were a lack of design excellence, traffic impacts, the amount of parking on the site and, most frequently, the quality of the plaza that is proposed for the middle of the development. Most who commented, including county staff, expressed concern that traffic and the near-constant shade cast by tall buildings would make the plaza uninviting as a recreational area. Staff had recommended that the proposal, as submitted, be denied, although at the hearing, staff members said Comstock was cooperating with the county and making changes to its plan.

The Planning Commission deferred its decision on the application to April 14, in order that testimony from the hearing could be taken into account.

Joe Stowers of the executive committee of the

Dulles Corridor Rail Association, said his organization had met with Comstock earlier in the week and was confident that the developer was working to respond to the concerns. He recommended that the application be approved, with some flexibility to allow Comstock to continue to improve its plan. Among the design changes he suggested was the idea of expanding the plaza by placing some buildings above the proposed Reston Station Boulevard.

Most of the 12-and-a-half-acre development will be on the northwest quadrant of the intersection of Wiehle Avenue and the Dulles Toll Road, next to the coming Metro stop, although about three and a half acres will be a block away, southwest of the intersection of Sunset Hills Road and Isaac Newton Square. Comstock plans to connect the two sites by building two roads, to be called Reston Station Boulevard and Comstock Metro Center Drive.

THE DEVELOPMENT is planned to have an overall floor-area ratio of 2.5, meaning two and a half square feet of floor space for every square foot of land. The county's Comprehensive Plan says this is an acceptable density for mixed use on the 17 acres closest to the Wiehle Avenue station. Twenty percent of the area is to be open space, with much of that contained in a plaza at the center of the larger site, surrounded by buildings, some of which could be up to 205 feet tall, with others standing up to 140 feet tall.

County staff had concluded that the majority of the plaza would be in the shade nine months out of the year. William O'Donnell of the Department of Planning and Zoning said, the proposed vehicular

SEE COMMISSION, PAGE 12



Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce President Mark Ingrao



Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce President Eileen Curtis

Chambers Team Up to Advocate for Businesses

Three chambers lobbied General Assembly with unified front.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

This year marked the first time that the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce teamed up to advocate together for the businesses they represent. The three groups hired a lobbyist to represent their interests to the Virginia General Assembly during its session that ended March 14, and chamber representatives visited Richmond at least three times during the session.

Eileen Curtis, president of the Dulles Chamber, said her group had joined forces with the Loudoun Chamber last year and invited other chambers to join forces with them this year. The Reston Chamber took them up on the invitation.

"We are in that zone that is so hot for growth," Curtis said, noting that the area between Leesburg and Tysons Corner was the second fastest-growing region in the country in terms of commercial expansion. Both the Loudoun and Dulles chambers have fast-growing memberships, she said.

"At a time with money being tight, you really have to fight for your own constituents," Curtis said.

Reston Chamber President Mark Ingrao just took over the presidency in July, coming from a lobbying background. "I've always thought it's very important to be engaged in Richmond, as well as here in Fairfax

County," he said, adding that he considered advocacy to be one of the best services a chamber could provide for its members. Also, he said, the fact that Metrorail would soon unite the three jurisdictions and spur continued growth made the partnership sensible.

THE CHAMBERS hired Fairfax-based Access Point Public Affairs, who the Dulles and Loudoun chambers had hired last year, to represent their collective 3,000 member businesses.

Curtis said one of the first issues to come up was the proposed freeze on the local composite index (LCI), which would have meant a loss of about \$120 million in school funding for Fairfax and Loudoun counties. When the General Assembly seemed disinclined to restore the funding to Northern Virginia, the chambers took the matter to Governor Bob McDonnell (R), who sided with them, she said.

"We have an education piece, so we were very concerned about that issue and we weighed in on that," Ingrao said. Northern Virginia frequently touts its school systems as incentive for businesses to move here.

Ingrao said the groups focused on tax and regulatory policy, energy and environmental issues, and economic development. They didn't propose any legislation but supported bills that would benefit their businesses and opposed those they deemed detrimental, he said.

In the area of economic de
SEE CHAMBERS, PAGE 7

RA Board Election deadline

Friday, April 2 is the deadline to cast ballots for the 2010 Reston Association Board Elections. Ballots were mailed on March 5th with a return deadline of 5 p.m. on April 2nd. Reston Association Members and renters are eligible to vote by mail or online. www.reston.org.

Members of the Reston Association (RA) will elect three individuals to RA's Board of Directors - one each from the North Point and Lake Anne/Tall Oaks Districts and one At-Large Director. Each will serve a three-year term. The Board of Directors determines the Association's goals and policies. Reston is a large community association with a population of 62,000.

Police Make Arrest in Homicide

On March 27, police arrested a 45-year-old man of 11900 Winterthur Lane #PH-3, and charged him with the October 2009 murder of Karen Deck, of 1599 Inlet Court in Reston. Police believe he and the victim were acquaintances.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, officers were called to an apartment in the 11900 block of Winterthur Lane around 3:40 p.m. 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, suffered a gunshot wound to the upper body.

Easter Brunch, More at the Sheraton Reston

The Sheraton Reston will be serving Easter Brunch at its Syrah Restaurant on Sunday, April 4, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. In addition, various animals from the Leesburg Animal Park will be on-site thanks to the park's Zoo-to-You program. Plus, the Sheraton will be hosting Easter Egg Hunts at 12 noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

The Leesburg Animal Park will be on-site from 12 noon - 3 p.m. during which time children, young and old alike, can pet and personally visit with friendly animals, even a few babies. More information about the Park and some of its residents can be found by visiting leesburganimalpark.com.

Walkathon to Support Amy's House

Romanian Christian Enterprises will hold a Walkathon on April 17, beginning at the Temporary Road Pavilion (at the corner of Temporary Road and North Shore Drive) at 9 a.m. to raise money for Amy's House. For further registration information, see RCE's website at www.recenterprises.org.

On May 7, in Arad, Romania, a home for disabled teens will be dedicated and named in honor of Reston resident, Amy Boyle, who died in June 2008 from a brain tumor. Many Reston and Herndon residents encouraged and helped Amy as she battled cancer, all the while gaining respect for this courageous young girl. Amy's House will be a home for orphans with disabilities, ages 14-18, who have been loved, raised and educated by Romanian Christian Enterprises. There the teens will receive vocational and life skills training to allow them to become working participants in the community of Arad when they are officially adults at 18.

Volunteers Improve Garden Pathway

About 20 volunteers from Software AG in Reston will help improve the pathways that connect garden plots in the Golf Course Island, making a safer walkway for 120 gardeners.

"This project will satisfy the pleas and concerns from gardeners about the difficult pathway," said Patricia Greenberg, environmental resource supervisor for Reston Association. "This will be a great help because many gardeners have a hard time moving wheelbarrows through the plot."

The Software AG volunteers will work with RA staff on the project, which will also help save the Reston community money during the current economic climate. The work will include digging soil, cutting and laying boards strategically, moving and flattening soil, then reseeding the ground to create level pathways at the Golf Course Island Garden Plot.

The project will take place on Friday, April 9, from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. The rain date is Friday, April 16. Volunteers should meet at the Golf Course Island Recreation Area - 11301 Links Dr.

NEWS

Lasagna Dinner Tradition to Continue

This year's Democratic event to be Saturday, April 10, at the Reston Community Center.

In 1976, area Democrats - mostly women activists with their husbands, many working in the federal government - came together for a lasagna dinner. The Hunter Mill Democratic Committee has preserved the tradition, full of festive decorations, animated talkers and the smell of garlic and tomato sauce at the Annual Lasagna Dinner. The dinner was originally held in the community room of Tysons Corner Center on rented tables and chairs with the lasagna kept warm in wrappings of newspapers and aluminum foil and the occasional hot plate. Inaugural guests included future Governor Chuck Robb and his wife, Linda, and Ken Plum, now chair of the Democratic Caucus in the House of Delegates.

Barbara Caputo, one of the original organizers, together with other organizers hand-wrote invitations to honored guests, hired a deejay from a local record station for pennies and prepared the food. They also helped move the event from the cramped Tysons facility to the Reston Community Center and its ample kitchen space. "A Godsend," Caputo recalls.

On Saturday, April 10, the Reston Community Center will again be alive with community members communing over the layered pasta casserole feast. It remains an event where volunteers provide resources, hard work and effort to help Democratic candidates get elected. And over the years, an early VIP reception has been added as well as silent and a live auction with Delegate Plum as the auctioneer.

The Lasagna Dinner is always a good place to catch up with your State Senators and Delegates, Congressional representatives, Supervisors and School Board Members, as well as an excellent opportunity to meet new candidates running for office in the area.

The Annual Lasagna Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 10, at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, beginning at 6 p.m. A VIP reception begins at 5 p.m. Advance tickets for the



Reston Founder Bob Simon talks with workers at Lasagna Dinner in 2009.



Hunter Mill Democratic Chairman Bob Haley talks with Delegate Ken Plum.

event can be obtained by going to <http://tinyurl.com/RSVP-HMDDC> or www.fairfaxdemocrats.org.

Reston Residents Honored for Volunteering

Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will honor the spirit of service at the 18th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, Friday, April 23, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church. One hundred and forty-eight individuals and groups nominated will be honored for their work supporting such causes as mentoring children, the arts, environmental programs, job training, helping young mothers, animal rescue, homelessness and hunger. In Reston, the following residents have been nominated for a Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award:

❖ Axel Alanis volunteered at Reston Interfaith, Inc., and is nominated for the Benchmark 100 award.

❖ Catherine Walter volunteered at Reston Interfaith, Inc., and is nominated for the Senior Volunteer award and the Benchmark

500 award.

❖ Marlis McCollum volunteered at the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.

❖ Mary Stine volunteered at MVLE, Inc., and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under award.

❖ Kiwanis Club of Tysons Corner volunteered at Our Daily Bread, and are nominated for the Adult Volunteer Group award.

❖ Richard Raines volunteered at the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, and is nominated for the Benchmark 1,000 award.

❖ Robin Smyers volunteered at the Reston Association, and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Over award.

❖ Steve Le volunteered at Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia, and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.

❖ Sylvia Haefer-Rose volun-

teered at Reston Interfaith, Inc., and is nominated for the Lifetime Achievement award.

❖ Tamarind Johnson volunteered at Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia, and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors serve as honorary chairs for the program and will present awards to Community Champions from every district along with other volunteer winners during the breakfast ceremony. Earl Stafford, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Stafford Foundation, will serve as the ceremony's keynote speaker, and ABC7/WJLA-TV Anchor Cynné Simpson will emcee the program. Volunteer Fairfax will welcome more than 500 guests to the event. For more information about the nominees or to purchase tickets, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

No Movement on Transportation

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

Ask any of the residents of Northern Virginia to name the top two or three major challenges facing the region and virtually all will include traffic congestion. Yet with this well defined need and the election of a new governor who ran with a "transportation plan," the legislature adjourned with only raising the speed limit to 75 mph on rural interstates and the Governor re-opening rest stops that had been closed to save money. As minority caucus chairman I did not put forth a specific transportation plan that would have been rejected on partisan grounds, but I did pledge to vote for any plan that stood any chance for passage. No one could find a way to improve traffic congestion without costing money, so no bills made it out of committee.

Former Virginia Secretary of Transportation and now distinguished member of the House of Delegates, Vivian Watts, dispensed with "common excuses for not voting" on transportation needs in a speech on the floor of the House of Delegates. As Delegate Watts told the House, the notion that the private sector can do the work

better hardly applies to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) that contracts out 80 percent of its work to the private sector already. At the same time, she points out that it is essential to have appropriate oversight of the billions of public dollars that are spent on private snowplow operators to billion-dollar construction projects. Taxpayers have an expectation that projects be finished on-time and on-budget, and VDOT has one of the best records in the country at doing just that. VDOT has been audited eight times in the last decade without findings of mentionable waste, fraud, or abuse. In fact, VDOT staff has been cut 30 percent in the last decade and 12 percent in the previous decade.

Delegate Watts pointed out to the House that a meaningful investment in transportation infrastructure would help to stimulate the economy. With 80 percent of VDOT's budget going to private sector contracts, the construction industry would be given a major boost. Furthermore, an invest-



COMMENTARY

ment in transportation infrastructure would save time and money for commuters in Northern Virginia who must travel through the second worst traffic congestion in the country. Sitting in traffic is hardly a money-saver for people try to get to work or return home.

Promises of profits from offshore drilling that Governor McDonnell says he will use to fund transportation are years in the future, if ever. Tolling of new roads has limited practical application. Alternatives to automotive travel that are dependable and affordable must be provided in congested regions. Governor McDonnell has intimated that there may be a special legislative session on transportation. But a special session will be productive only to the degree that the Governor shows leadership with substantive recommendations. It is time to show the people some movement on transportation. And as The Washington Post said last week in an editorial, it is time to move past "sprites, fairies, and pixie dust."

False Alarm

Captain Deborah Burnett-Reston Station Commander, Fairfax County Police, has issued the following letter on March 26, 2010:

Dear Citizens:

In the past week and a half, there has been a malicious and erroneous e-mail circulating in our community which is causing undue alarm and hysteria. This e-mail has the subject line "Serial rapist spotted in Reston" and has many inaccuracies, false information and presumptions which have caused much concern in our community. As a result of this e-mail being circulated to our schools, HOAs, other jurisdictions, etc. my office, our dispatch center, and the police Public Information Office have been inundated with calls and e-mails referencing the rapist loose on the Reston pathways.

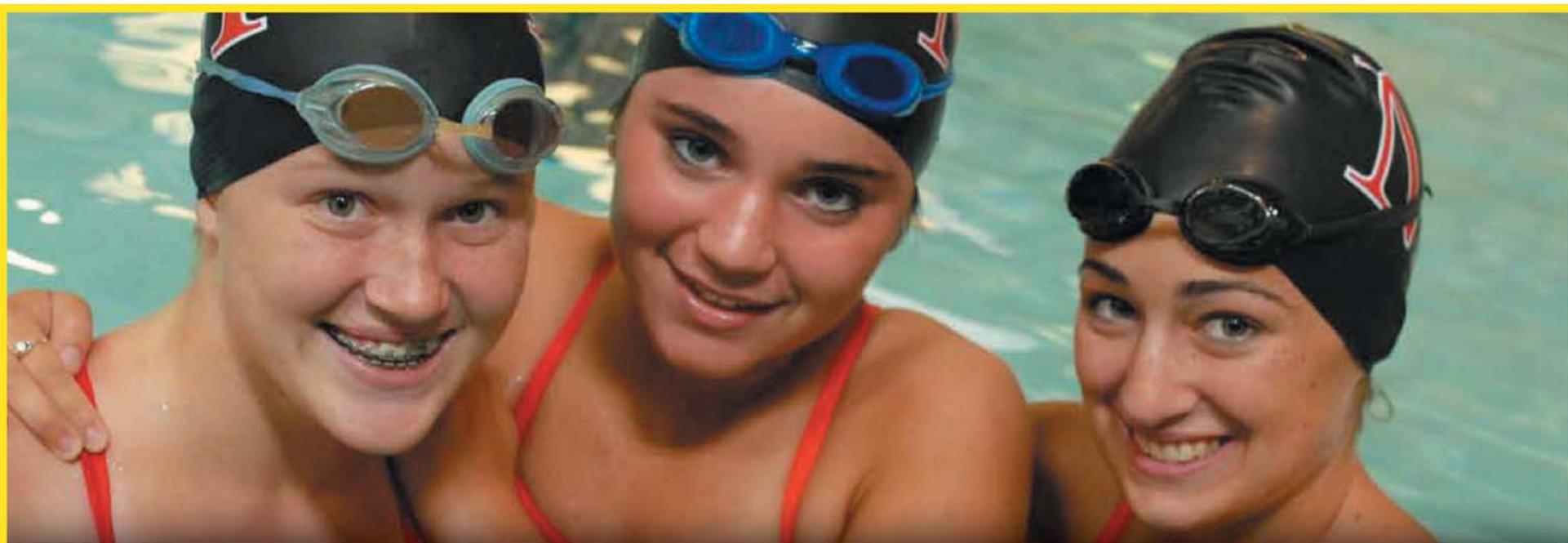
The facts are that on Saturday morning, March 13, we had two reports of a suspicious male on the pathway along Glade Drive between Soapstone Drive and Twin Branches Road. Based on these reports, I directed additional patrol and resources to

the pathway in an attempt to identify the subject along with providing a sense of security to the users of the pathways. The subject did not commit any crime nor was there any physical contact made.

On Monday March 15, the Washington Post had a detailed report of an East Coast Serial Rapist. Based on this article, the circulating e-mail erroneously made the leap that our suspicious person report was somehow linked. First, let me state there is absolutely no information which remotely ties the suspicious male/incident to the East Coast Rapist.

Second, we encourage all citizens to call the police when suspicious activity occurs.

However, there is no evidence to substantiate the concern that the East Coast serial rapist is loose in Reston. If you receive such an e-mail, it would be best not to forward the information; call the police Public Information Office at 703-246-2253. On March 16, information was released and is currently available on our website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/reston/



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OPINION

Poetry in April

April is National Poetry Month according to the Academy of American Poets, and we invite our local poets to send submissions for us to print.

The National Poet Laureate serves as consultant to the Library of Congress and “seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.”

Virginia also has a poet laureate, a position established by the General Assembly and appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the Poetry Society of Virginia. The current poet laureate of Virginia is Claudia Emerson, claudiaemerson.org.

Emerson won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her collection “Late Wife.” She is a professor of English and Poetry at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

But some residents are lucky enough to have local poetry as well.

On April 10, 2007, the Alexandria City Council named Mary McElveen as the city’s poet laureate for a three-year term; her replacement for the next three years is set to be announced shortly.

Arlington sponsors poetry competition, one open to all, one for Arlington public school stu-

Poem a Day for April

Go to www.poets.org to sign up to receive a poem emailed daily.

Moving Words

READ AND RIDE

Launched in 1999 during National Poetry Month, MOVING WORDS makes poetry a part of daily life for commuters in Northern Virginia and promotes the work of local writers. The poems of six local poets selected through an annual competition are displayed on Northern Virginia Metro buses and viewed by approximately 1.3 million Metro bus riders every month. The poems are exhibited in Metro buses that traverse Arlington County, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County, and Fairfax City. Read the poems of the six winners and seven finalists at <http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural-affairs/moving-words/moving-words-2010.aspx>

MOVING WORDS POETRY READING

Winners of the 2010 Poetry Competition featured at IOTA Club & Cafe’s “Second Sundays Poetry and Art Hang,” Sunday, April 11, 8:15 pm., IOTA Club & Cafe www.iotaclubandcafe.com, 2832 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington.

dents, culminating in the display of winning poems (all limited in length) on Northern Virginia Metro busses.

This is one service local government could expand even in these economic times; Fairfax, Arlington counties, the City of Fairfax, the towns of Herndon and Vienna could consider appointing their own poets laureate.

The Alexandria Poet Laureate will promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, encourage creative writing and reading of all

forms of literature, and promote literacy through poetry.

Are you a poet? The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers this spring and occasionally throughout the year. We welcome student poetry as well, please list the student’s age, grade and school on the submission.

Send poems to reston@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

McSmooth and Kootch: Fighting for You

BY JOHN LOVAAS
CIVIC LEADER AND RESTON
IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



Remember last fall when Republican Bob McDonnell (hereafter known as McSmooth) ridiculed his opponent (Democrat Creigh Deeds) for not having a plan to fund and build a new transportation network to end our traffic woes — all with no new or increased taxes? Deeds proposed a bipartisan, blue-ribbon commission to plan infrastructure fixes and funding, admittedly including the possibility of new taxes. McSmooth had a plan, complete with funding sources to solve all transportation problems without a penny more in taxes — he said.

The legislative session ended—with no new plan from McSmooth. All the smoke and mirrors of the campaign, such as sale of the state ABC stores, of course did not materialize. As the Washington Post, John Lovaas and others had pointed out, McSmooth’s so-called plan was a complete fraud. But, he sold it to unbelievably gullible, conservative Virginians. Just more traffic.

Luckily for us, McSmooth and

progress on other fronts. For one, they beat back the inroads made by kids in pre-school and grades K-12 at the public trough by slashing low-priority education budgets. Millions from President Obama’s evil stimulus program blocked further gutted — curses! At the same time, Republicans led by the Guv slashed mental health and child health care funding — fortunately affecting only those troublesome lower income people. While joyfully cutting these programs, they miraculously restored public funding for Viagra and other vital erectile dysfunction medications for the guys, funding earlier cut out by that wimp, Tim Kaine.

In a great triumph for the second amendment (the one about a well-organized militia), the Republicans passed legislation welcoming all manner of concealed guns into all places serving alcohol — as long as every-

body promises not to drink while introducing new modes of dispute resolution in the new free fire zones. And, McSmooth-General Ken Cuccinelli (Kootch) made remarkable

progress on other fronts. For one, they beat back the inroads made by kids in pre-school and grades K-12 at the public trough by slashing low-priority education budgets. Millions from President Obama’s evil stimulus program blocked further gutted — curses! At the same time, Republicans led by the Guv slashed mental health and child health care funding — fortunately affecting only those troublesome lower income people. While joyfully cutting these programs, they miraculously restored public funding for Viagra and other vital erectile dysfunction medications for the guys, funding earlier cut out by that wimp, Tim Kaine.

Meanwhile: Developers on the Reston Master Plan Task Force are not slacking. One has suggested that the 15.7-acre wetland refuge near the Herndon station site is not realizing its full (dollar) value. Imagine high rises and garages there instead! The trick, he warned, is to get it done quietly so those pesky environmental types don’t hear about it and make a ruckus.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting Community

To the Editor:

In this RA Board election Reston Association (RA) and Reston Community Center (RCC) board members have taken the unprecedented step of attacking specific candidates and Save Brown’s Chapel, the organization that endorsed them. Bill Bouie and Bill Keefe, both RCC board members, wrote a recent letter to the editor [“Serving Reston At Large,” Reston Connection, March 17-23]. In it they said “Reston Association is under attack” from a “special interest coalition” with a “specific, narrow ‘NIMBY’ agenda” who don’t care about the community as a whole. They called us “well-organized,” “well-financed” and “partisan” and stated that they were “frightened” for the community. RA President Robin Smyers made similar claims in a widely circulated e-mail.

Who are we and why are they so afraid of us? We are neighbors from all over Reston. We formed our Coalition to Save Brown’s Chapel one year ago when we discovered that a joint task force consisting of RA and RCC board members had been meeting for months and had spent \$100,000 on con-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Chambers Demonstrate 'Power of Three'

FROM PAGE 3

velopment, they pushed for an increase in the Governor's Opportunity Fund, which provides cash grants to businesses that create jobs in the state, Curtis said. They also asked for \$5 million for the state's industrial mega-site fund to woo companies to Virginia and lobbied for a bill to bring \$3 million in bioscience wet lab facilities, such as the one that the Ignite Institute is planning for its new home in the Herndon-area Center

for Innovative Technology (CIT). The laboratory, which is to support institute's personalized medicine program, is planned to be the world's second-largest wet lab, second only to one in Beijing, China, Curtis said.

ALL OF THOSE EFFORTS met with at least some success.

Ingrao said it was the first time the Reston Chamber had teamed up with other chambers for the purpose of advocacy, although it had

teamed up with the Dulles Chamber to put on International Networking Night and was now working with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce to provide a trip to China in the fall.

"I don't see any reason why we wouldn't continue it," he said, noting that many legislators had been eager to meet with the alliance, which represent about 100,000 jobs. "That says something about the power you have when the three forces come together."



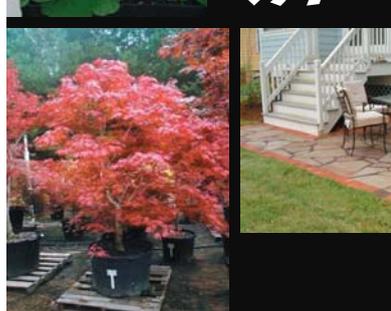
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Reston Players Clean Up

The Reston Community Players took home more awards than any other theater company at the annual Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) award ceremony Sunday, March 14 at the Birchmere in Alexandria.

Thirty theater groups entered a total of 114 productions — 32 musicals and 82 plays — to compete for 38 awards. The Reston Community Players took 13 of those honors, most of them for their fall production of the musical "Curtains."

In addition to the Outstanding Musical award that the players won as a group, winning members of the "Curtains" team are as follows: Andrew Regiec won Outstanding Direction of a Musical; Mark Deal won Outstanding Music Direction; Andrea Heininge won Outstanding Choreography; Brian Farrell and Karen Schlumpf won Outstanding Stage Combat Choreography; Blakeman Brophy won Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical; Katie McManus won Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical; Cathy Reider won Out-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Reston Community Players' production of "Curtains" dominated this year's WATCH awards.

standing Set Painting for a Musical; Sarah Birkhead won Outstanding Set Construction for a Musical; Skip Larson, Rick Schneider and Andrew Regiec won Outstanding Music Direction; Rich Bird won Outstanding Sound Design for a Musical; and Ken and Patti Crowley won Outstanding Lighting Design for a Musical. Also, Mike Hoskinson won Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical for his performance in the group's spring production of "The Full Monty."

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 1

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 or 703-984-9114. Walk-ins will only be accepted if time permits. All types of music welcomed. 703-435-5467.

The Holmes Brothers. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna, Roots, R&B, gospel and country influenced music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 2

The Elden Street Players in "Metamorphoses." 8 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. A modern adaptation of Ovid's Roman mythological stories. Mature themes and brief male nudity. Patrons in the front row may be splashed with water during the show; towels provided. \$19, \$16 seniors and students. Reserve at 703-481-5930. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Christine Lavin. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk artist. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

Reston V.I.P. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Support group for people with vision loss. Adults. 703-689-2700.

SATURDAY/APRIL 3

Herndon Rotary Club Tango Gala Fundraiser. At the Reston Center Hyatt, Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Live music by an orchestra from Argentina, floor show by professional tango dancers, dinner and dancing. \$100 per person; black tie optional. Proceeds benefit local charities supported by Herndon Rotary Club. Contact Rudy Tassara, 703-478-2800. www.herndonrotary-tango.com.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Members \$10, non-members \$12. Under age 18 \$5, PSDC members \$10. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

The Elden Street Players in "Metamorphoses." 8 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. A modern adaptation of Ovid's Roman mythological stories. Mature themes and brief male nudity. Patrons in the front row may be splashed with water during the show; towels provided. \$19, \$16 seniors and students. Reserve at 703-481-5930. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

13th Annual Easter Party for Kids. 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Magic Mountain Puppeteer, coloring, arts and crafts and TeGee's Bunny Hop Dance Party. \$12.95 per child. Space is limited, reservations suggested. All children must bring a grown-up. 703-435-JIMS.

Jonathan Edwards. 7:30 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 4

Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro Petting Zoo. provided by the Leesburg Animal Park. At the Westin Reston Heights, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Lambs, ducks, bunnies, goats, and a long haired llama will be on the lawn from 12-3 p.m., and Easter egg hunts for ages 12 and under at 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. The Easter Bunny will visit. Three-course prix fixe brunch menu, \$40 adults and \$18 for ages 12 and under. www.viniferabistro.com.

MONDAY/APRIL 5

ESL Beginners. 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. ESL conversation group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY/APRIL 6

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.

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

Reston Garden Club Meeting. 1 p.m. at the Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Linda Brining from Merrifield Garden Center will do a presentation on trough gardens. www.restongardenclub.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

Wandering Wildlife: Tracking movement, migrations and mileage, from wolves to wading birds. 7 p.m. at the U.S. Geological

Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. USGS researchers L. David Mech and Robert Gill will talk about the use of the latest state-of-the-art technology in tracking wildlife. Federal Facility: Photo Id Required. 703-648-4333 or www.usgs.gov/public-lecture-series.

Drop-In Story Hour. 11 a.m. Herndon-Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Storytime with a focus on books. 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.

What's All That Jazz About? 6:45 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Saxophonist Shenole Latimer combines classic recordings and live performance to provide new insights on how to follow along with jazz tunes. Adults. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

Swing Dance with Natty Beaux. 7:30 at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

Lupus Support Group. 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. tinyurl.com/lupusgrps or 1-888-349-1167.

Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive storytime for parent and child. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-689-2700.

Friends' Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" by Thornton Wilder. Adults. 703-689-2700.

FAITH NOTES

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

The United Christian Parish at 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston celebrates the Holy Week.

♦**Maudy Thursday, April 1.** A light meal to mark the Last Supper at 6 p.m., followed foot washing and communion.

♦**Sunday, April 4.** 6:30 a.m. Easter sunrise service and 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services. The United Christian Parish is an ecumenical church combining the United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) Contact 703-3065 or www.unitedchristianparish.org.

Washington Plaza Baptist Church, 1615 Washington Plaza in Reston, invites the community to Lenten services. www.WashingtonPlazaChurch.com or 703-471-5225

♦**Maudy Thursday.** 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. Experience Christ's last sorrowful night through narration and music.

♦**Good Friday.** 12 p.m. on Friday, April 2. The story of Christ's last hours through scripture and prayer.

♦**Easter Sunday.** 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 4. When the desert in the sanctuary blooms and we celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus.

The Guyasama Buddhist Center will host Glenn Mullin, an author, poet, translator, and teacher of Tibetan Buddhism. On Sunday, April 11, 1-5 p.m. Mullin will teach two classes open to all-from beginners in Buddhist practice to advanced practitioners. Location: The Unitarian/Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston VA 20190. Suggested donation: one class \$10; both \$15.

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 Shaw 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 or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

Nondenominational Christian businessmen meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and 12 p.m. Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

Adult Sunday school will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

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APRIL AT RESTON TOWN CENTER

THROUGH APRIL 15

Emerging Artists: FUSION at GRACE. Annual celebration of Youth Art Month showcases innovative work and collaborative installations by Fairfax County adolescents from Herndon High School, Pimmit Hills High School, and South Lakes High School. Teen Night: Thursday, April 15, 6-9 p.m. 703.471.9242. restonarts.org

THROUGH APRIL 30

'Through the Film Lens, through the Looking Glass,' Exhibit at ArtInsights Gallery. New limited edition art from Tim Burton's 'Alice in Wonderland,' James Cameron's 'Avatar,' and Harry Potter original art in celebration of the opening of 'Harry Potter Wizarding World!' 703.478.0778. artinsights.com

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

Transportation Exhibit Opening Reception. 5:30 p.m. at the Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. The first of a new series of revolving exhibits at Reston Museum, featuring transportation of the past, present and future in Reston, on display through May 2010. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Ristoranté, Saturdays at 10 p.m. April 3: Kevin James, April 10: Drew Stevyns (finalist in America's Got Talent), April 17: Dan Fisk, April 24: Tommy Rothman. 703-318-8920 paolosristorante.com

FRIDAY/APRIL 2

Movie Night at The Bike Lane kicks off the season with a viewing of Grippid Films "24 Solo". 8 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and get ready to be inspired. 703.689.2671. thebikelane.com

SUNDAY/APRIL 4

Mon Ami Gabi's Easter Brunch featuring Live Jazz. Join Mon Ami Gabi for a spectacular Easter Brunch and enjoy an elaborate Build-Your-Own Bloody Mary Bar, bubbly mimosas and live jazz to complement this special day - and a surprise treat for all the children. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 703.707.0233. monamigabi.com

Easter Brunch at Uncle Julio's Rio Grande Café. Enjoy a vast selection of

scrumptious brunch items and several cool cocktails. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 703.904.0703. unclejulios.com

MONDAYS/7 - 10 PM.

M&S Grill's Salsa Dancing. Salsa lessons and dancing with Adam King 'The Ballroom King.' Lessons are \$10. 703.481.6600

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

2010 USA Hockey Opening Ceremonies. Tournament Opening Ceremony for the USA Hockey National Championships, 6-8 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion/Market Street. The Championship Tournament is being held at rinks in Fairfax County and Loudoun, April 7 - 12. 44 teams from across the country will compete to be the champions of the Pee Wee (U12) Tier II (AA) division. usahockey.com/youth_nationals/ For more events and confirmation, go to www.restontowncenter.com/events

Hunter Mill Democratic Committee

Lasagna Dinner. 5 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Coits Neck Road, Reston. \$40 advance ticket, \$20 students, \$50 at the door. Music, live and silent auctions. 703-716-2339 or 703-242-1652.

MONDAY/APRIL 12

Weekly classes in Chen tai chi. Beginners class every Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Jow Ga Shaolin Institute, 600-D Carlisle Drive, Herndon. First class free. All levels and ages welcome. truetaiichi.com or 703-801-0064.

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Seahawks' Boys Lacrosse Wins Two

South Lakes, under new coach Craig Lunde, wins OT affairs over George Mason and Potomac Falls.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

New head coach Craig Lunde and his South Lakes High boys' lacrosse team will take victories any way they can get them this spring.

Last week, that meant going down to the wire on consecutive days as the Seahawks won overtime thrillers over George Mason High, 9-8, and Potomac Falls, 13-12.

"It's been pretty exciting," said Lunde, a former standout lacrosse player at Yale University.

The victories were much needed for the Seahawks, who had opened the season with a pair of losses - against Stone Bridge, 17-8, in a Liberty District road game on March 18; and a deflating 19-4 home loss to cross-town rival Herndon on March 19.

The bounce-back wins, on Wednesday, March 24, and Thursday, March 25, over the Mustangs of George Mason and the Panthers of Potomac Falls, were huge going into this week's spring break. South Lakes has spent the off-week practicing in preparation for the bulk of its schedule which will start next Friday evening, April 9 at 7:15 with a district home game versus Marshall.

In the triumph over George Mason, the Seahawks scored the game-winner in overtime on a goal by junior attack Harrison Hughes, off an assist from junior attacker Brendan Galbraith.

The following day, Alex Clough, another junior attackman and the Seahawks' top scorer through four games, scored the OT game-winner off an assist from sophomore midfielder John Oakes (1 goal, 4 assists in the win) to lift South Lakes past Potomac Falls.

"The nice thing is we're getting clutch scoring," said Lunde, who said his squad, following the sweet, hard-fought win over Potomac Falls, was a totally ex-

"I think we could potentially be a good team."

— Coach Craig Lunde

hausted group on its bus ride back to Reston.

Clough scored five goals with two assists against the Panthers.

"He's so quick," said Lunde, of Clough's all-around game. "He gets a lot of nice loose balls and can find the open man."

Hughes was the next leading scorer against Potomac Falls with four goals.

In the net, senior goalie Kevin Murphy played the first three quarters and came up with, according to Lunde, "eight acrobatic saves."

The Seahawks gave their opponents a different goalie look in the fourth quarter of that game when junior Ricky Stoudt took over and played a solid final quarter.

Lunde, who grew up in Long Island, N.Y., enjoys the luxury of having two able goalies to look to at any time. Stoudt, a 6-foot-3 inch right-hander and a team captain, played the entire game in the win over George Mason. And Murphy, a left-hander, gave his team quality play over three quarters against Potomac Falls.

South Lakes is younger in terms of varsity playing experience than the more-seasoned squad it had a year ago under former coach Matt Blamey, who was at the helm of the program for six years before going on to become the head coach at the local Northern Virginia Community College men's lacrosse team. The Seahawks went 5-7 during the 2009 campaign.

This year's team, while it has 13 seniors on the roster, also has a solid nucleus of sophomores and juniors who are receiving good playing time.

"Our team is pretty thin and young," said Lunde, who coached

the Herndon High JV boys' team a year ago. "We have many sophomores and juniors in the line-up."

Two key underclassmen include faceoff specialists Peter Moran, a freshman, and sophomore Freddie Lehner. Both players are midfielders. Both won several face-offs in the recent two wins. Lehner opened the George Mason game by winning the opening faceoff before taking the ball down the field and scoring nine seconds into the start of play. Against Potomac Falls, Moran was fouled on a few occasions after winning face-offs. The results were the Seahawks capitalizing with some power play scores.

"They've been fantastic," said Lunde, of the overall play of Moran and Lehner.

SOUTH LAKES' THREE team captains this season are Clough, goalie Stoudt and senior defenseman Daniel Reineberg, who missed his first two games with an injury before returning to the line-up in last week's two victories.

"I think we could potentially be a good team," said Lunde, who from 2006 through 2008 was an under-15 boys' lacrosse coach within the Herndon/Reston Optimist youth organization. "We're such a young team. By the end of the season I hope we'll be playing our best lacrosse. We have tons of character and good senior leadership on defense."

Lunde, while attending Yale, played both lacrosse and football. He earned four varsity letters in lacrosse and, as a senior, helped lead the Bulldogs to the Ivy League title for the first time since 1969. He played attack position that senior year and was part of an attack trio that produced the program's best scoring output in 100 years of Yale lacrosse. A year earlier as a junior, Lunde led the Bulldogs in scoring. He graduated as Yale's fourth all-time scoring leader.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The under-12 Reston Raiders' AA ice hockey team will be representing Virginia at the upcoming 2010 USA Hockey Pee Wee (U-12, Tier II) National Championships, set to take place April 7-11. The Reston Raiders' organization is hosting this year's nationals showcase event.

Recently, the U-12 Raiders proved their worth by winning the Capital Beltway Hockey League championship.

Reston, part of the 23-team, Capital Beltway Hockey League, peaked near the end of their 18-game schedule by winning seven of their last nine games to capture a playoff spot. In the playoffs, they stunned the top-seeded Ashburn Xtreme, 4-3, in a shootout in the semifinals. Reston goalie Andrew Herrmann had 39 saves in that victory. Then in the finals, the Raiders defeated the Richmond Royals, 7-4.

At nationals, Reston will face teams from Alaska, Texas and Missouri in first round action. The Raiders will also compete against two local teams - the Xtreme and the Metro Maple Leafs.

Reston's first game at nationals will be against the Alliance Bulldogs (Dallas) on Wednesday afternoon, April 7 at 2:30 at SkateQuest Reston. Tournament games will take place at both SkateQuest Reston and Ashburn Ice House. Tickets can be purchased at both rinks on any day of the event. Tournament passes are \$35 for adults and \$25 for individuals under age 18. Single day passes are \$15 and \$7, respectively. Children 4-and-younger will get in free. For more information, please visit <http://www.usahockey.com/Tournament>.

The Langley High boys' tennis team won a Liberty District match at Madison, 6-3, last Thursday, March 25. The Saxons, under coach Jack Porter, improved to 3-0 on the young season. Langley singles winners in the match versus the Warhawks were: junior Vincent Ning (No. 2 singles), senior Evan Berner (No. 3), junior Josh Cooper (No. 4), sophomore Jimmy Fang (No. 5) and sophomore Jeff Small (No. 6). Langley's No. 2 doubles team of Ning and Cooper was victorious. The Saxons will travel to Marshall next Monday afternoon, April 5 for a district match versus the Statesmen at 3.

Two Chantilly High track athletes earned all-American honors at the Nike Indoor National Championships, held on March 12-13 at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston. Chantilly senior Chris Foley, who is headed to the University of Virginia next year, took fourth place in the two-mile run event. His time of 9:09.75 broke the Chantilly school record, set in 1997 by Chargers' alum Eric Post, who now serves as a Chantilly assistant cross country coach. Foley's time at the Nike event was the best two-mile time by any Virginia high school runner this year.

Meanwhile, Chantilly freshman Sean McGorty took fifth place in the Freshman Mile event in Boston, running a personal-best time of 4:35.61.

Annandale United FC is among some of the outstanding elite U-17 boys' soccer teams competing at this week's Challenge for the Tiffany Trophy Cup, an international amateur tournament set to run through April 2. Other participating top tier teams include West Ham United FC Academy of England, the U17 National Team of Georgia, and D.C. United Academy. The world class tournament is drawing teams from four continents - Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. Games were taking place at such venues as the Maryland Soccerplex and the Bretton Woods Center, both in Montgomery County. Tickets are \$8 each and available at the field before matches. The championship match will be held on April 2. For more information visit www.InternationalAmateurSports.com.

The Oakcrest School (McLean) varsity girls' basketball team, on Saturday, Feb. 20, met Covenant Life School in the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference (PVAC) tournament finals. The title game, which was won by Covenant Life, 49-46, took place in the Bender Arena at American University.

Oakcrest senior co-captain Eileen Kuzma led all scorers with 21 points, five steals, and four rebounds. Senior teammate and co-captain Therese Franco also had a great game with 11 points, six rebounds, four steals, and two assists. Also for Oakcrest, juniors Alessandra Christiani and Elise McNall were big contributors with five points each and Elise grabbed 10 rebounds. Senior Tori Jensen had four points and eight rebounds.

Oakcrest finished first place in the South Division regular season standings with a record of 14-2. Overall, the team was 15-6.

National Hockey Championship Opens at Reston Town Center

The 2010 USA Hockey Tournament Opening Ceremonies will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 6-8 p.m. at Reston Town Center

Pavilion/Market Street. The National Championships Tournament is being held at rinks in Fairfax County and Loudoun, April 7-12. 44 teams from across

the country will compete to be the champions of the Pee Wee (U12) Tier II (AA) division. usa-hockey.com/youth_nationals/

A Thank-You Note

To the Editor:

It was almost a decade ago, when I thought, “I have some time. Reston is truly my home. How can I get involved in my community and try to give back?” I had just gone through the DRB process as a homeowner, and decided to apply as a lay member and see how it would go. Now after eight years of volunteer service to RA, I want to extend my profound thanks for the experience of allowing me to get to know my community better, and many of my neighbors.

Reflecting on my two terms on the Reston Association board, my thoughts haven’t changed about the importance of getting involved, how we can all give back, and make a difference. This community is going through profound changes.

But, this I still believe: No matter how busy we get, how stressed out we are, or how we may not always agree, Reston will continue to thrive, succeed, and always be a great place to live, work, play and get involved.

To the Reston Association staff, past and present, my profound thanks and undying respect for the job you do, and the many ways you give back to our community. We may not always say it often enough, you are the greatest asset to our community. Thank you for supporting our members every day.

To all of my volunteer friends, especially Suzi Jones, who encouraged me to get involved so long ago, thank you for your never-ending enthusiasm and support.

To the leadership, staff, and volunteers of other community organizations, including Reston Community Center and Reston Interfaith, thank you for the opportunity to be your partner in doing good things for all of our neighbors.

And, to Robert E. Simon: Thank you for your vision of what a community should be. You have been a role model for so many, and my personal hero. With profound respect, I hope you know we are all so lucky to be living your vision, and we are all better for having you in our midst.

Finally to all Restonians, please remember, volunteering is easy. All it takes is someone to tap you on the shoulder, and ask you to give some time. Or maybe you are already involved. Why not ask someone you know to join in and give back? It has truly been a humbling and fulfilling personal experience for me; one that I hope many of you will consider trying. Whether you have a couple of hours to give, or many, get involved, give back, and make a difference. After all, this community is rich with talent and so much good happens in Reston every day.

Robin Smyers
Reston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

cept plans for an indoor recreation center at the site of Brown’s Chapel Park. In March 2009, the joint task force discussed details like the size and layout of the facility, class offerings and fee schedule. They asked the site engineer to look into permits and voted to name the new facility “The Robert E. Simon Community Center.” All of this took place before Reston residents knew anything about it and before we had the opportunity to give community input.

We started a grass roots movement of Reston residents united with similar beliefs including the preservation of RA parkland and open space. We made a petition and built a Web site. We quickly grew to 1,500 strong. Far from being well-financed, we are not financed at all. We are all volunteers doing this in our spare time. We have collected contributions for a legal fund to pay the fees for

a land use attorney (to whom we still owe money). We dealt with the craziness of fighting our own homeowners association who was using our fees to fight against us. We waged a David versus Goliath battle, against organizations that have big budgets and teams of attorneys at their disposal. Organizations that are supposed to be looking out for us.

Contrary to the claims of Mr. Bouie and Mr. Keefe, we are not partisan or affiliated with any political party. We are not as they have suggested, a bunch of “conservatives” or “Republicans” or “rich people.” We are neighbors from all over Reston who care deeply about the community. All of the founding members of our group are longtime Reston residents with strong ties to the community. I personally am a second generation Restonian and have lived here for 25 years, in four residences on both sides of the toll

road. Like the others I can’t imagine living anywhere else. We are here to stay, and that is why we chose to get involved.

We did come together over a specific issue, the destruction of a beloved park. We are not against indoor recreation. We simply don’t believe that an indoor recreation center designed for all of Fairfax County has priority over a neighborhood park used by residents from all over Reston. You can call us NIMBY if our backyard is Reston as a whole. Of that we feel very protective.

The prospect of the destruction of Brown’s Chapel Park motivated us to become involved. We decided to stay involved and to stay vigilant to make sure that nothing like that happened in Reston again.

Clearly our grass roots coalition makes some people very unhappy. They are trying desperately to discredit us, to quiet our voice. They view us as “harmful” and “dangerous.” I have a different view. Last summer, we came together as a community. For the first time in the history of Reston hundreds of people attended board meetings and community input sessions. We found out that residents from all over Reston care enough to get involved to save their park and their money. This is not a bad thing, it is a good thing. We have nothing to hide, no hidden agenda. We are fellow residents that want the best for Reston — our motives are clear. Now I ask

you: what are they so afraid of?

Amy Justice
Co-Chair Coalition to Save
Brown’s Chapel

Methodical Decision-maker

Dear Reston Association members:
Please vote for David Robinson for the at-large seat on the Reston Association Board.

David has years of experience in both the public and private sectors with problem-solving under tight budget constraints. He is a methodical decision-maker who considers the short-, mid- and long-term impacts of the decision being considered. As Co-Chair of RA’s Parks and Planning Advisory committee he serves as a strong voice of reason as RA makes decisions on how to meet the recreation expectations of current and future members while preserving RA’s natural areas. He is also committed to maintaining RA’s financial health and using assessment monies wisely to provide a strong quality of life for residents of all ages.

The new Directors elected to the Board will be called on to make critical decisions regarding the quality and cost of living in Reston. It is important that we elect candidates who are open-minded, deliberative, and professional to make the right – and sometimes difficult – decisions for our community. David possesses these attributes more than any of the other at-large candidates. He will be a leader in taking the RA Board to the highest level of professionalism and strengthen the members’ trust in the Association.

All RA members should have received an election ballot in the mail. If you have not received a ballot, have misplaced the ballot, or have any questions regarding your ballot, contact the Reston Association immediately at 703-435-6512 or cate@reston.org

Your vote must be received no later than 5 p.m. April 2.

Joe and Marcia Stowers
Reston

Childish and Ugly

My fellow citizens of Reston:

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to run for the Reston Association Board of Directors. As a candidate for At-Large Director, I have listened to members of our community, and the opinions of my opponents. It is difficult even for me to choose the

best man for the job. Joe Leighton brings 12 years of Board experience, as well as his commitment to his cluster. David Robinson has served our community on the parks committee, and is dedicated to moving Reston forward. Rod Koozmin wants to improve two-way communication, a formidable task.

All of the candidates are endorsed by various individuals or groups. All of the candidates have had letters written, comments posted, and twitters tweeted, in support of their agendas. I commend them all on achieving this recognition.

As we enter the final stretch of this year’s election, I would ask those of you who have not yet decided, to please review my commitment to sustainable growth and development in Reston. The Metro is coming to Reston. There is no denying that fact. This is “our” Metro station. It does not belong to Loudon County. It is not for the citizens of Leesburg, Sterling, or Ashburn. It is for Reston. And development around this station should be a reflection of our principles and commitment to the residents of this community. It is the responsibility of our citizens, represented by the RA Board, to challenge any strategy put forth by Fairfax County, in order to assure that Reston maintains its high standard of living and quality of life.

Currently, there are two issues on which the Board of Supervisors is planning to take action. Several service lines of the Fairfax Connector will be cut in Reston. These lines serve our community, and will only increase traffic as former riders must drive to commuter lots and transit stations.

The second issue is the planned Comstock development at the Weihle station. The developer’s plan does not even consider its impact on our community. The highrise structure, limited parking, and failure to provide a traffic mitigation plan, is an insult to the planned development of our community.

These two issues will have a historic and lasting impact on our community. The RA Board has sent a letter to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors regarding the Comstock development. Grassroots organizations are raising awareness about the reduction in transit service. As an RA Board candidate and resident of Reston, I believe that the board must actively engage our new President, and push for RA attendance, as a representative body, at all Fairfax County Board and Committee meetings concerning our community. The RA Board must address these issues, and bring our griev

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

Write

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

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NEWS

Commission Scrutinizes Proposal

FROM PAGE 3

access to the plaza could turn it into another kiss-and-ride lot, leaving its public recreation opportunities "greatly diminished, if not destroyed." O'Donnell said the county and Comstock had reached a verbal agreement on traffic restrictions in the plaza, but staff had not yet received an altered plan.

He said staff had also recommended denial because the county and Comstock had not reached agreements on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the buildings and traffic mitigation studies and requirements. However, O'Donnell said, "Since the publication of the staff report, the applicant has continued to work with staff."

Attorney Ben Tompkins, representing Comstock, said the developer was comfortable with staff's requests for both LEED certification and traffic demand management.

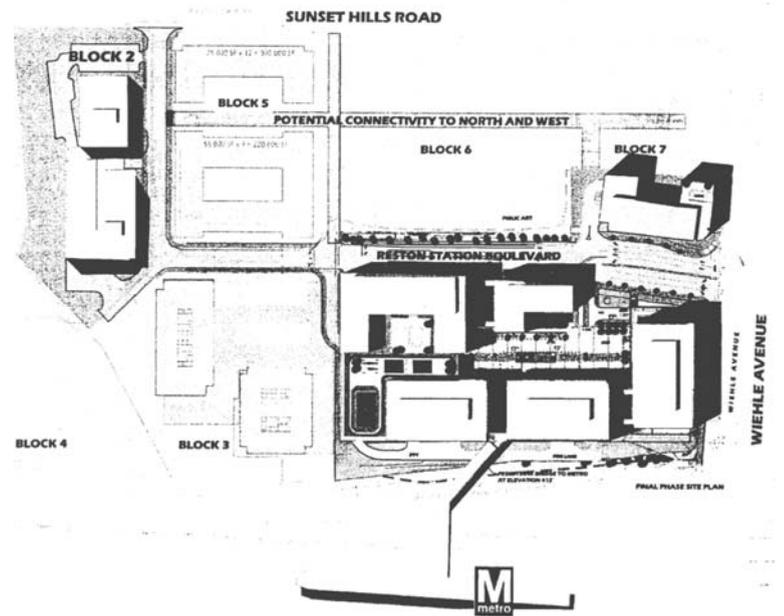
Kris Abrahamson of the Department of Planning and Zoning said artificial light sources could be used to brighten the plaza, and building heights could be slanted to allow some sun in. "It's endemic that there will be shadow in that courtyard area," she said. "It's how it's treated that we're worried about."

Doug Carter, the project architect, said buildings could be moved and made more vertical in order to let more sunshine into the plaza.

At-large Commissioner James Hart said he wasn't sure how that would work, but he said, "I think the quality of that space could be very chilly and unfriendly if it's a dark alley where people are cold and you just want to get across."

Local planner and architect Guy Rando suggested a modified site design, with some of the density moved to the north of the plaza and in the air rights over Wiehle Avenue to let sun into the plaza. He also suggested moving much of the building that is planned to go north of Reston Station Boulevard to the air rights over Wiehle Avenue and Sunset Hills Road to create more open space. Rando said traffic could be routed under the plaza to the first level of the parking garage, leaving the open space to pedestrians. He said that area of the garage could be turned into a sort of art gallery to make it pleasant. "We're not quibbling with the density. We're suggesting quality here," he said.

"We urge the Planning Commission to reject the Comstock rezoning application as presented," said Dick Stillson, co-chair of the Reston Citizens Association's



The mixed-use development is to be located on two sites, with most of it immediately adjacent to the coming Wiehle Avenue Metro Station.

Reston 2020 Committee. In addition to traffic and shadow on the plaza, he said another major problem was what his committee felt was excessive parking.

A private, above-ground structure with about 6,000 spaces is proposed to serve the development, prompting Stillson to suggest that the county's minimum parking requirements be reduced to bring them more into line with transit-oriented development policies, which de-emphasize car travel. Some of the underground parking would no longer be necessary after the Metro Silver Line is completed and the Wiehle Avenue station is no longer the end of the line, he said. He suggested that the commission recommend approval of the underground parking structure and wait until issues were resolved before making a decision on the rest of the development.

O'Donnell said a study was underway to reduce parking requirements. Rick Stevens of the Fairfax Department of Transportation said a study carried out during the planning of the Silver Line had forecasted a demand for 5,000 parking spaces to serve the station, even if it wasn't the line's terminus.

Resident Rob Whitfield said the development was expected to put something like 1,300 more cars on the roads during the morning rush and 1,800 more cars in the evening. "I haven't seen how those vehicles are going to be accommodated on the local street level," he said. "It seems to me that's a fundamental problem we need to address with this application."

Eddie Byrne of the Initiative for

Public Art Reston (IPAR) read a letter from IPAR CEO Joe Ritchey expressing support for the rezoning application, which the letter said marked the first time a developer in Fairfax County had made a "strong statement" about public art as part of its application. Comstock has agreed to spend at least \$125,000 on public art in the development.

COMMISSIONER Frank de la Fe (Hunter Mill) suggested that Comstock consider some sort of cooperation with Reston Association and the Fairfax County Park Authority. The property is in the Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG), where residential space has not been allowed in the past and the Reston Association currently has no authority.

Tompkins said Comstock was in talks with the Reston Association about the possibility of becoming a dues-paying member. If the residential portion of the development joined the RA, he said, the commercial portion might contribute to the Park Authority.

Stillson was not the only person to suggest that the garage be approved before the rest of the plan, but de la Fe said that wouldn't be legal. If the project were denied, he said, the Comprehensive Plan would continue to call for a 2,300-space, above-ground garage to serve the station, "and that is what we all said we didn't want." The county would have just months to figure out how to change that plan, he said, as construction would need to begin early next year in order to have the parking structure ready when the first phase of the Metro line opens in 2013.

NEWS

Patrick Hammes Advances to States

Clearview sixth-grader will compete in State Geography Bee.

Clearview sixth-grader Patrick Hammes has qualified to compete for the state level of the National Geography Bee. Patrick will represent Clearview at Shenandoah University in Winchester on April 9 against students from all over Virginia for a chance to advance to the national level of the Geography Bee.

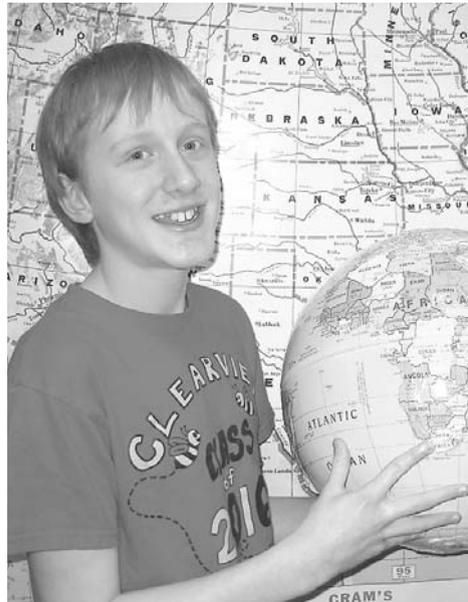


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Patrick Hammes will represent Clearview Elementary in the State Geography Bee.

Oak Hill, Herndon Residents Nominated for Volunteer Service Awards

Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will honor the spirit of service at the 18th annual Fairfax County Friday, April 23, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church.

One hundred and forty-eight individuals and groups nominated will be honored for their work supporting such causes as mentoring children, the arts, environmental programs, job training, helping young mothers, animal rescue, homelessness and hunger. In Oak Hill and Herndon, the following residents have been nominated for a Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award:

- ❖ Frank Saylor volunteered at Reston Interfaith, Inc., and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.
- ❖ Grace Wolf volunteered at the Council for the Arts of Herndon, and is nominated for the Benchmark 500 award.
- ❖ Digital TV Volunteer Team volunteered at Volunteer Solutions-Area Agency on Aging, and are nominated for the Adult Volunteer Group award.
- ❖ Jennifer Peng volunteered at Pathway Homes, Inc., and is nominated for the Youth Volunteer award.
- ❖ Heritage Fellowship Church volunteered at Reston Interfaith, and are nomi-

SCHOOL NOTES

John Candler Brooks of Reston has been awarded a bachelor of science in engineering degree from Miami University of Oxford Ohio.

Seven Reston residents received degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at the Dec. 2009 graduation: **Renee Maisel**, bachelor of science in business in marketing management; **Haley Rardon**, bachelor of science in business in management; **Andrew Alter**, bachelor of science in geosciences; **Emily Brennan**, bachelor of science in business in accounting and information systems; **Elizabeth Papile**, bachelor of architecture; **Maryann Raimo**, bachelor of arts in philosophy; and **Andrew Holland**, bachelor of science in business in finance.

Navy Seaman Recruit **Joseph A. Lartey** of Reston, a 2004 graduate of South Lakes High

was nominated for the Adult Volunteer Group award.

❖ Karen Stacy volunteered at the Council for the Arts of Herndon, and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.

❖ Lisa Xander volunteered at the Herndon RECenter, and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.

❖ Luan Ngo volunteered at the Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center, and is nominated for the Senior Volunteer award.

❖ Michele Bevington volunteered at the Cub Run RECenter, and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under award.

❖ Peg Menzel volunteered at Reston Interfaith, Inc., and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors serve as honorary chairs for the program and will present awards to Community Champions from every district along with other volunteer winners during the breakfast ceremony. Earl Stafford, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Stafford Foundation, will serve as the ceremony's keynote speaker, and ABC7/WJLA-TV Anchor Cynné Simpson will emcee the program. Volunteer Fairfax will welcome more than 500 guests to the event. For more information about the nominees or to purchase tickets, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the program, Lartey completed training in naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety.

Conor Keefe of Reston has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at St. Bonaventure University. Keefe is a senior management sciences/ general business major, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Keefe.

Nicole Ehrhardt of Reston was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Chestnut Hill College of Philadelphia, and was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society. Ehrhardt is an elementary education major.

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Make Mine A Double



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Wow! My oncologist sure sobered me up the other day and I hadn't even been drinking. But I sure felt like grabbing a stiff one – or three – after we spoke. What he said wasn't anything he hadn't said previously, but it was something I hadn't heard in a long time, 11 months to be exact. It was cancer related. It was responsible – and perhaps even considerate, of him to tell me. It was my future as the statistical averages see it. It was straight forward (as my doctor knows I prefer to hear it). It was, if nothing else, a reminder, and an advisory to boot (not really a kick at all, though).

What he suggested was, since my appointments with him are now scheduled to be every three months instead of every three weeks (as they have been for the past year), that I try to make those appointments after I've completed my quarterly scans (MRI, CT and Bone) and to bring along a family member as well, in case there's bad news. (WHAT?!) Then, in response to my usual life expectancy/prognosis question, he reiterated that cancer patients with my diagnosis live, on average (and he was careful to explain what average really meant, using a cliff reference) 13 months to two years (this appointment occurring around the 12-month anniversary – some anniversary!). We then proceeded with my physical exam, which I passed with flying colors. After which, we exchanged our final pleasantries ending with the doctor saying casually: he "hopes to see me in three months." "HOPES?!" I knee-jerked out loud. "What do you mean, 'hopes?' You're not supposed to say 'hopes,' you're supposed to say you'll see me in three months or something like that." Unsettled didn't begin to describe my emotional state (state of panic, state of anxiety, state of fear cumulatively, might have though).

In fairness, none of this was/is new information. In fact, it's old news. News my wife, my brother and I were given on March 5, 2009, the date of our initial Team-Lourie meeting with my oncologist. And it wasn't given then, any more then it was given now, for shock value or effect even. It was provided then as now, as useful and timely information, crucial information, for a stage IV lung cancer patient to have. However, it was a conversation we hadn't had in almost a year. And not that I forgot much from that first life-changing doctor-patient exchange, but after the last year of treatment, scans, medical appointments, lab work, and all, it's not all that I have to remember, so its place, its dominance in my brain/life has become less intense. I have learned to live with my diagnosis and all the cancer-related activities, as previous columns have indicated.

Still, there's nothing quite like a metaphorical 2x4 to the head to shake out the mental cobwebs. Not that I thought I was getting – or had become complacent in my coexistence with cancer, but given my mental state after this thwack, perhaps I had. I mean, the light's always been on, definitely, but maybe I haven't been home as often as I think/though.

But that's how I've coped – and hoped; by focusing less on the negative and more on the positive. I haven't obsessed about cancer and as a result, I don't believe I've regressed because of it. Life has gone on (thank God!) and I'm grateful that it has. The uncertainty of the future (heck, the present, too) remains a constant and disturbing companion, however. The doctor's courtesy/responsibility in reviewing my timetable the other day struck directly at the heart of that day-to-day existence which scares the living daylight out of me (if you want to know the truth). I know exactly why I wanted that drink, to forget.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

ances and solutions to Supervisor Hudgins.

Many of the letters I've read during this election point to a divided community. Attacks come from all sides, and have gotten childish and ugly. I have heard very few voices that lead me to believe we can build a coalition of support for sustainable growth and development. I cannot promise that I, or any candidate, will be able to change this as a member of the RA Board.

However, I can assure you of a few things; as a representative of our community I will answer every email, return every phone call, and will meet with every resident who wishes to have their issue heard, question answered, complaint vented. As a representative of Reston, I will challenge the RA Board to represent our community at Fairfax County Board of Supervisor meetings. Should the Board choose not to send a representative, I will go myself, and represent this community to the best of my ability.

Patrick Shipp
Reston

Semantic Quibble

To the Editor:

The Virginia Assembly passes a necessary deficit-reducing budget by a huge bipartisan majority, and, little surprise here, Delegate Plum wants more "revenue" (for more spending) and votes "No" ("No to the Budget," Reston Connection, March 24-30).

Governor McDonnell is confronted with the largest deficit in Virginia's history (\$4.2 billion for 2011 and 2012). He proposes \$2.3 billion in cuts. Given the substantial rises in school and Medicaid spending over the past decade, there is room for budget-balancing reductions, but Delegate Plum wants more "revenue."

He indulges in some semantic quibble about a "fee" not being a "tax," but, either way, his desired "review of the revenue side of the budget" would mean more money out of taxpayers' ever-shortening pockets.

Other than raising taxes, Delegate Plum, which you concede is "out" in a recession, hard-pressed taxpayers would like to know how you would balance the budget.

Harry Locock
Reston

Spectacularly Ill-Considered

To the Editor:

I was appalled to learn of the recently announced cuts to Fairfax Connector bus service in Reston. The decision to eliminate a service that 8,000 people depend on every day, without providing any alternatives, is spectacularly ill-considered. I take the bus to work from the park and ride to the metro, and this decision will only make the remaining buses, the Toll Road and the Wiehle Ave parking lot even more crowded than they already are.

This decision is apparently linked to the loss of Toll Road revenues because MWAA took over the Toll Road. The MWAA takeover has been public knowledge for at least four years, and it is absolutely disgraceful that this problem has not been addressed

effectively before now. Common sense suggests that if MWAA is now receiving the \$6.6 million in annual toll revenues that was formerly spent on buses, then MWAA should either give that money to VDOT to pay for buses, or reduce tolls accordingly. Lame excuses from MWAA on this score are simply not acceptable.

I encourage everyone to write to our elected officials, as I did, to urge them to maintain this critically important service.

James Perry
Reston

Negative Impact Of Bus Cuts

To the Editor:

I want to thank our local newspaper for its attention to the impending demolition by our elected and appointed officials of public transportation within Reston ["Reston Buses Grind to a Halt," by Mike DiCicco, Reston Connection, March 17-23.]

At a time when Tysons Corner is being presented with a free circulator bus so that the people in Tysons can get used to the idea of public transit in advance of the construction of four metro stations in Tysons, Reston commuters and local folks who depend on existing public transit to get to work, go to the doctor, run errands, etc., are being told to jump back into their cars and clog our roads in Reston. That is, if they have a car. People who previously walked from their home to the local bus stop to catch a bus to West Falls Church will have to drive to the Reston East Park and Ride at Wiehle (future site of the one — at least for several years — metro stop in Reston) to catch the new bus from Wiehle to the metro at West Falls Church. But wait, the Park and Ride is already seriously overcrowded. Where will all those people who currently take the bus park the cars they will now have to drive to the Park and Ride? On the street, in nearby neighborhoods, in nearby business park parking lots? Or, perhaps they will take a cab to Park and Ride, or have a friend or family member drop them off at the Park and Ride? The resulting additional traffic will clog Reston's streets, which already suffer from too much traffic at certain times of the day.

Think of the impact on our environment of the increased traffic: hundreds more cars idling in traffic jams throughout Reston. Think of the impact on the health and welfare of our working residents who will be forced to add additional time to their already long commutes. Think of the people who have no cars and, therefore, depend on the bus entirely for their transportation needs. Residents of Reston better think of these things, because, apparently, no one at the county or commonwealth level is taking our needs and concerns into consideration when planning things like public infrastructure.

Once again, the unincorporated area of Reston is powerless against the bureaucrats at the county, state and federal level who can grant or deny services to us whenever they so choose.

Diane Blust
Reston

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Reston
\$479,000
Backs to Trails

Charming end townhouse in popular North Reston cluster has 3BR, 3.5BA, hardwood floors throughout main lvl, 2 upper-level

master suites, FR w/gas FP, fully finished W/O lower level w/bonus rm/3rd BR & spacious rec rm. Main level deck & flagstone patio back to Reston trails. Located just minutes from schools, shopping, transportation and Reston amenities



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Oakton

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Reston

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Enticing Design

Estate lot is the perfect setting for this Gulick home. The open floor plan boasts 4BR, 3.5BA, an oversized sun-room, finished W/O basement. Elegant luxury master suite w/sitting room or office. Neutral upgraded enticing design.



COMING SOON

Oak Hill
\$799,900
A Spring Delight

Gorgeous home in sought after FRANKLIN OAKS in the Crossfield, Carson, Oakton HS district. This

brick, 4BR, 3.5BA home w/approx 4,000 SF on 3-lvls, has it all! Incredible cul-de-sac lot on priv rd, fenced yd backing to trees, spectacular pool, pond w/waterfall & terrific screened-in porch. The fabulous floorplan has spacious rms w/ 2 story foyer, main lvl library, FR w/vaulted ceilings, brick FP, gour kit w/custom corian counters, island, tons of hi end cabinetry, hdwds, MBR suite w/lux BA & skylights. Fin lwr lvl w/bar, full BA, rec rm & separate media & study. Fresh paint & manicured landscaping make this the ideal home.

Gail Romansky 703-980-5300
gpromansky@aol.com



COMING SOON

Reston
\$1,149,900
Architecture of Light and Nature

Dramatic Deck House in Reston's premier neighborhood on a priv wooded acre

w/3BR, 2.5BA. The 3700 s.f. on 2 fin lvls showcases soaring wood ceilings & beams, clerestory windows, walls of glass, custom designer lighting, hdwds. Enjoy the Spring on the spacious deck, screened porch & stone patio. Delight in low energy costs w/passive solar heating & cooling. The breathtaking 2-level solarium w/spa, brick walls & slate tile floor is the perfect place for relaxation. The interior floor to ceiling brick FP wall separates the inviting DR & spectacular, sun-filled LR. The sky lit gour kit w/center island, contemp Italian cabinets, SS appl, featuring a DACOR range is a chef's dream. The lwr lvl has a FR w/wood stove for cozy evenings & a spacious library/study. The heated 2-car garage is currently being used as an office & art studio & the dual-entry driveway has tons of parking for company. Seconds to lakes, pool, tennis, shops.



Marcy Thomas 703-927-2190
mathomas8@aol.com



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karen.fabris@longandfooster.com



Fairfax

\$475,000

In the Heart of Fairfax!

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Chantilly **Golfer's Delight!** **\$549,000**

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Reston

\$499,900

Lots of Living Space

5BR detached home for a townhouse price! Gleaming hardwood floors on main and upper levels. Enjoy 4 levels and large room sizes. Located in Hunters Woods E.S. district which is a Fairfax County magnet school for the Arts and Sciences. Roof recently replaced. Close to commuter bus and swimming pool.



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Oak Hill

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\$499,000
Van Metre Garage Townhouse

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Reston

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