

Voter Turnout High in Reston

News, Page 3

Voters lined up outside Lake Anne Elementary early Tuesday morning. Voters reported about a 45-minute wait at Lake Anne Elementary.



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News, Page 7

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News, Page 11

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News

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Photos by Amiee Freeman/The Connection

Voters line up at Langley High School Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Voter Turnout High in Reston

Despite long lines crowds remain positive.

By Amiee Freeman
The Connection

Voter turnout around Reston was high Tuesday morning with voters reporting waits ranging between 35 minutes and one hour.

Despite the long lines, poll workers and election officials said that the crowds were generally positive.

"Everybody who is afraid of the long lines say they will come back," said Lee Brown, a poll worker stationed outside Buzz Aldrin Elementary in Reston. "Everyone's been really positive and that is important especially with all the negative advertising we've seen with this campaign. It's nice to see such a strong turnout."

"People are showing up because it's a presidential election," said Randy Causey, elections chief at Aldrin Elementary. Causey referred to the precinct voting at Aldrin as a mega-precinct, the largest in Reston, with 5,200 voters on the roster. Between 7 and 8 a.m., Causey and the other election officials processed the crowd of nearly 200 voters waiting to vote.

This was the first year Reston is included in the 11th Virginia Congressional District. The district was redrawn following the 2010 Census to reflect the explosive



Voters lined up outside Lake Anne Elementary early Tuesday morning. Voters reported about a 45 minute wait at Lake Anne Elementary.

growth in this area of Northern Virginia. Current Congressman Gerry Connolly was defending his seat against five challengers: Republican Chris Perkins, Green Party candidate Joe Gallo, Independent Green candidate Peter Marchetti, Independent candidate Chris DeCarlo and Independent candidate Mark Gibson.

Perkins was on-hand at Aldrin Elementary to greet voters early Tuesday morning. "In most precincts only 3 to 5 percent of the voters are independent. Here, 40 to 45 percent of the voters are independent with about another 20 to 25 percent Republican. There's a lot up for grabs in this precinct," Perkins said.

Viewpoints

What brought you to the polls, who did you vote for?

Nyin Jing,

Reston

"For this election and with Virginia being a swing state, I feel my vote is very important. That's why I'm here today voting for Obama."



Mike Balley,

Reston

"I'm a Tea Party guy, I don't necessarily support all Republicans, but I'm supporting Romney. I vote for people who will support the Constitution and I don't support people who make their own laws. Obama decides which law he will enforce. That's tyranny. Hope we can turn things around."



Lillian Christman,

Reston

"I'm here to vote today because so much is at stake. There is so much we could lose if Obama is not re-elected. It's really very scary. I didn't sleep at all last night, thinking about it."

-Amiee Freeman
The Connection



Election volunteer Mari McColl kept lines moving and answered voter's questions.



Jim Eggeman of Vienna

Photos by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Absentee Voting Down Slightly

More confusion about redistricting reported at polls, not Voter ID.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

The line of 100-plus voters casting absentee ballots at the Reston Government Center Friday evening moved quickly. Poll workers Mari McColl and Joe Gofus frequently walked up and down the lines, checking to make sure forms were filled out correctly, and voters got answers to their questions.

"Do you have your forms? Any questions about your ID? Need anything else, a beer maybe?" joked Gofus.

"We haven't had any real problems," McColl said. "We only had to turn away one voter so far, and that was because the only form of ID this man had was an out-of-state driver's license." McColl said election volunteers provided the man with the list of acceptable forms of identification. McColl said most absentee voters have been using their new Voter Registration Cards, sent out by the State Board of Elections in early October.

McColl said the line Friday night was relatively short compared to earlier in the week.

"On Thursday we had over 750 people come through," she said. "Things have been hopping, but it's worth it to be part of the process as long as people vote."

Jim Eggeman of Vienna, standing in line at the Reston Government Center Friday night, was one of the 82,145 voters in Fairfax County who cast an "in-person" absentee ballot by Nov. 3, according to Cameron Quinn, the County's

chief elections official. "This is more convenient than trying to get here on Election Day, and I will be working all day," he said.

Quinn said absentee voting was down slightly this presidential year—a total of 93,014 absentee ballots mailed—compared to 107,145 in 2008.

"We typically have high voter turnout in Fairfax County," Quinn said. In 2008, Quinn said 79 percent of the County's registered voters cast their ballots, compared to 38 percent nationally. And nearly 90 percent of eligible voters, about 721,000 out of 800,000, have already registered to vote in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County's Office of Election employees have been working overtime the past few months to make sure voters are "election ready" on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

While Virginia's new Voter ID laws was the hot topic in the run-up to the Nov. 6 elections—Quinn said many of her office's 600-plus calls each day concerned the Voter ID measures—it wasn't the big question in many polling stations. Redistricting was.

"Now I'm confused," said Oakton voter Barb Cranston. "I thought I was in the 11th district, but someone just told me I'm in the 10th Congressional district."

"I'm not sure if I'm still in the 11th district," Eggeman said, as election volunteers walked through the line, looking up addresses to help guide voters to the right ballot box.

"I didn't even know there was redistricting," Eggeman said.

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Week in Reston

A Hike to Ancient Rocky Outcrops

Reston Museum presents "A Hike to Ancient Rocky Outcrops along Twin Branches and Lake Audubon Trails," Saturday, Nov. 10, at 1 p.m.

Meet at the Walker Nature Center, 11050 Glade Drive, Reston (near intersection of Glade Drive and Soapstone).

Gary Nobles of USGS and Dr. Robert Ridky, national education coordinator of the USGS, will tell the story of these ancient rocks and lead a two-and-a-half mile walk along Twin Branches and Lake Audubon trails to see the rocky outcrops. At 1 p.m., join a brief orientation at Nature House, complete with maps, analyses and fascinating observations before heading out on the trail.

Reston straddles the edge of the sedimentary rocks of the Triassic lowland and the western margin of the crystalline rocks of the Piedmont. The rocks of this area capture a dynamic story of

compression, folding, faulting from plate tectonic forces that extends back more than 600 million years.

Carpools to the Nature Center will leave from the Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, 20190 in Lake Anne Village Center at 12:30 p.m. For information call 703-709-7700 or visit RestonMuseum.org on the web.

IPAR to Honor Public Art Supporters

The Initiative for Public Art—Reston (IPAR) will celebrate another year of making art and culture a vibrant part of everyday life at its IPAR Annual Reception, Thursday, Nov. 15, 6-8 p.m. at Midtown, Reston Town Center.

The public is invited to join the party, which honors the people, businesses and organizations that have contributed to the achievements and growth of IPAR and make public art a reality in Reston. In the past, recipients have included Jen Sterling, founder and president of Red

Thinking and former chairman of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, and documentary filmmakers Rebekah Wingert-Jabi and Vicki Wingert. This year's honorees will be announced at the reception. And, as in year's past, plans for new projects also will be announced.

A live auction, conducted by Del. Ken Plum, will include: a chef's table for eight at Mon Ami Gabi restaurant in Reston Town Center, a one-night stay at the Hyatt Regency Reston and a gift certificate for dinner at Morton's, an original necklace by artist Pam Tobey, two tickets to any show of choice at Reston Community CenterStage, two tickets to Greater Reston Arts Center's annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival pre-party, and more.

Catering is by Chef Cynthia Stowers and her culinary arts students from South Lakes High School, and the South Lakes High School String Quartet will entertain.

Single \$50 tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, visit the IPAR website at, www.publicartreston.com

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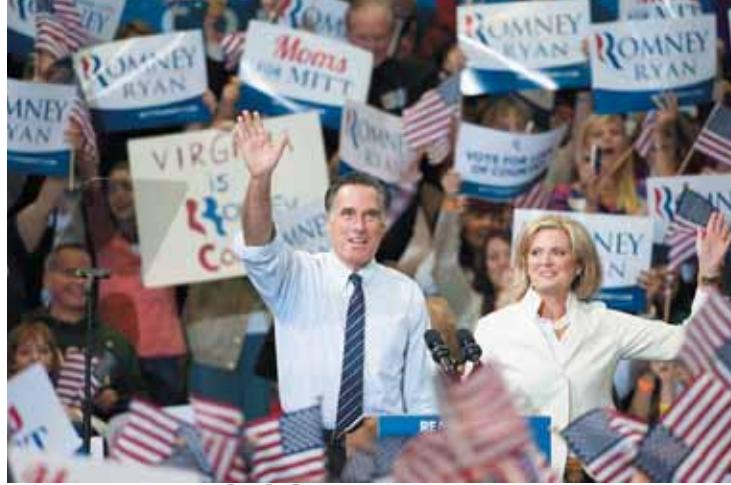
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Opinion



Barack Obama came to Northern Virginia on Saturday, Nov. 3 with Bill Clinton and Dave Matthews.



Mitt Romney packed the Patriot Center at George Mason University on Monday, Nov. 5. Anne Romney asked: "Will we be neighbors soon?"

Photos by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Feeling Important

Presidential campaigns traverse Northern Virginia on last days, mark the importance of every vote.

The images from the last weeks of the presidential election of 2012 make it clear that it would be hard to overstate the importance of voting, especially in Virginia, especially in Northern Virginia.

Every vote will be important. What I wish for today from Northern Virginia is record turnout and smooth sailing for voters casting their votes.

Writing this the morning of Election Day, it's still fair to say that the race for president and for the U.S. Senate in Virginia is too close to call. It's hard to overstate the difference it will

make when the election results are final.

Mitt Romney came to the George Mason University Patriot Center on Monday, also bestowing attention on Republican Senate candidate George Allen. It was one of several trips to the area.

President Barack Obama came to Prince William County on Saturday, along with Bill Clinton. On Monday, Vice President Joe Biden came to Claude Moore Park. Both visits gave a boost to Democratic Senate candidate Tim Kaine.

The money that has been spent—and raised—here in Virginia is daunting. At the end of Octo-

ber, in 2012, Romney had raised \$10.1 million and Obama \$8.2 million in checks of \$200 or more from Virginians, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. Inside the Beltway donors (different from Northern Virginia in VPAP's categories) gave \$3,193,148 to Obama and \$3,104,160 to Romney. Northern Virginia outside the Beltway gave \$2,694,030 to Obama and \$3,525,796 to Romney.

While either way, about half of voters will be disappointed by the outcomes here, no one will be sorry that this campaign season is over. It's been fun to be a favorite child in some ways, but it will be OK to go back to addressing local issues without the magnification of such an important election.

— Mary Kimm,
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

A Faithful Budget

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

This column is being written before the results of the election are known. Regardless of the outcome, however, the winners will face tough challenges. Growing numbers of persons unemployed and in poverty require consideration and response even as budgets get more difficult to balance.

Former President Bill Clinton was quoted during the most recent campaign as saying that we have to decide if we are a nation that says "we are in this together" or a nation that says "you are on your own." Certainly a philosophy of the role of the social services safety net must be agreed upon as we attempt to balance budgets at all levels of government and to get control of the national debt as well as debts at all levels of government and the needs for critical infrastructure improvements.

One approach that I believe should be on the table in a serious way is that enunciated by a group of nuns in "The Faithful Budget" (www.faithfulbudget.org). Failure to take into account its major provisions will mean that we expect as the wealthiest nation on earth to continue a society of haves and have-nots. Some will denounce the budget's provisions as socialistic; others will embrace them based on their religious doctrine. I believe they are as American as the notion of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

There are many more details in the Faithful Budget than can be considered here, but a review of its preamble will give you a flavor of what it is about. While endorsed by dozens of religious organizations "where respect and care for one another is a sacred impera-



tive," the Faithful Budget proposes that "American society as a whole is, or should be, also such a place, where we delight in the value of each and every one, and gladly accept a mutual responsibility for one another's wellbeing." It goes on, "Government of, by and for the people at its best is a vital forum for promoting the common good and ensuring that no one is left behind." The communities of faith that put together the Faithful Budget "call on our elected leaders to craft a federal budget that fulfills our shared duty to each other in all segments of society to those who are struggling to overcome poverty or are especially vulnerable, and to future generations through our collective responsibility as stewards of creation."

As was noted during the presidential campaign by many com-

mentators, there was little or no mention of the issue of poverty and no mention of climate change. Yet the Catholic Sisters who have promoted the Faithful Budget through their Nuns on the Bus campaign state emphatically that "it is simply not true that we must reduce assistance for the poorest among us in order to achieve fiscal recovery." Instead, "we need the government's continued partnership to combat poverty by providing a truly adequate short-term safety net, and by means of policies that serve to prevent poverty, reduce extreme inequality, restore economic opportunity for all, and rebuild a robust middle class." And the Nuns say that the Faithful Budget "must encompass a reverence for our created environment, making choices that protect air, water, and land..."

Now that we know the outcome of the election, can we expect that the concepts of the Faithful Budget might at least be considered?

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News

The Orchestra's 25th Anniversary Reston Community Orchestra prepares 25th season.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

Twenty-five years ago, Joellyn Kinzer, a cello player, invited a dozen like-minded musicians to her living room for some baked goods and a chance to play together.

"Reston was a great little community, and we thought you couldn't have a community without an orchestra," she said. "And we were able to find about a dozen people who agreed."

A quarter-century later, the group that began in Kinzer's living room is the acclaimed Reston Community Orchestra, who will kick off their 25th season this month.

For their first few years, they were known as the Reston Chamber Orchestra, but after it became assumed that they were a part of the chamber of commerce, they changed their name.

THE GROUP now consists of about 50 musicians who gather every Monday night at the Sunset Hills Montessori School to rehearse. While early members remember coming together as much for the cookies as for the music, now they are all there for the music.

"The minute we got serious, we started attracting very qualified musicians," said Dingwall Fleary, the orchestra's music director, now in his 15th year with the group. "As the conductor, I'm really amazed that this is an all-volunteer group. They go and do their regular jobs, and then come to us and help create music at an level of proficiency that's astounding."

Fleary said he thinks one of the keys to the orchestra's success is encompassing a wide range of music.

"We make a point of featuring music by living composers, as well as the classics everyone knows and loves," Fleary said. "I'm always looking at what will keep players challenged with a diverse repertoire, but will appeal to all fans of music."

Principal viola player Gary Mosteller joined about eight years ago. After a stint with the Prince George's Philharmonic, he was looking for something more local.

"I think we play a great selection of music," he said. "Dingwall programs a great combination of classics and new music."

In 2009 the orchestra premiered the fifth symphony of composer

See Orchestra, Page 13



Photo by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Members of the Reston Community Orchestra rehearse in preparation of their 25th season at the Sunset Hills Montessori School.

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Pictured (L-R): Dory and Dany Abi-Najm Photo by: Eikon Photo

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Racing for Superheroes

Event benefits local nonprofit organizations.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

From children wearing superhero capes to costume-clad adults to tots in strollers, participants took to the streets of Arlington last month to raise money for charity as part of the fourth annual Acumen Solutions Race for a Cause 8K and 1-Mile Fun Run.

"This year's Race for a Cause was a shining example of the power of community. Our goal is to not only raise awareness and much needed funds for our 10 nonprofit partners, but to engage the community in a way that enables us all to feel the impact," David Joubran, Acumen's president and CEO, said in a statement.

Acumen Solutions identifies 10 local nonprofit organizations that they dub "superheroes." Through race registration, more than 3,000 people selected and secured funds for one of the 10 organizations. The nonprofit organizations also help raise money. The Fairfax County Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington came in first place.

"Our teamwork made it possible. We recruited runners and donors and sponsors," said Wonhee Kang, the regional director of Fairfax County Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington.

The Women's Center in Vienna placed second, followed by Greenbrier Learning Center in Arlington.

"We are thrilled and delighted to have won second place thanks to the efforts of our board, our staff, our therapists and all of our community supporters. We had a wonderful showing of support," said Carol Loftur-Thun, executive director of the Women's Center in Vienna.

"We offer counseling services to more than 2,500 people from D.C., Maryland and also right next door in McLean and Great Falls," she continued. "About 60 percent received counseling services at a reduced fee or less. The race and the funds that will be awarded will go to help support our services."

Even those who were not among the top winners saw the race as an opportunity to increase their visibility in the community. "What I love about this event is that all kinds of people sign up to race. They learn about the nonprofits in their community who are doing good work and they can sign up to volunteer," said Patti Donnelly, executive director of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia in Falls Church. "We tutor adults who are learning to read, write and speak English all throughout the Northern Virginia region, from Alexandria to Herndon to downtown Fairfax to Arlington County. We need to reach a lot of people in Northern Virginia."

Other participating nonprofits that will also receive monetary funding include Our Daily Bread in Fairfax, The Reading Connection in Arlington, and Washington, D.C.-based Education Pioneers, Young Playwright's Theater, United for D.C., and For Love of Children. Funding will be announced and distributed at a Nov. 28 race celebration event.



Participants in the fourth annual Race for a Cause cross the finish line. The event raised money for local nonprofit organizations.



The fourth annual Acumen Solutions Race for a Cause 8K and 1-Mile Fun Run raised money for local nonprofit "superheroes." The McLean-based Acumen team is pictured here.

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Wellbeing

Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, HealthWorks Merge

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, which served nearly 2,000 low-income patients without health insurance last year, has merged with HealthWorks for Northern Virginia. Founded 10 years ago, the clinic was founded at Herndon Middle School.

"We're always looking for ways to expand capacity, because the need is always there," said Carol Jameson, executive director of the clinic. "We had reached the point where we were looking at having to create a waiting list."

HealthWorks, formerly known as Loudoun Community Health Center, is a federally qualified health center that provides healthcare as well as preventative care.

Due to Herndon's high concentration of low-income residents, HealthWorks put in an application in 2010 to open a center in Herndon, but it was not funded.

Currently located at the Connections for Hope offices on Dulles Technology Drive, the new location will be next to the Amphora Diner, bringing the clinic back to within the Town of Herndon borders.

According to the clinic, the new facility will feature an additional five exam rooms, 12 up from the current seven and treat children age 2 and up, as



The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, currently located at the Connections for Hope office, has merged with HealthWorks for Northern Virginia and will open a new health center in the Town of Herndon.

well as adults with conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. They also hope to eventually open a diabetes treatment center.

"We're a safety net program, but it's time to start looking at what the barriers are to being healthy," Jameson said. "If we continue with a more educational approach, it will empower our patients, give them a chance to take ownership of their health in a more holistic way."

The new facility is scheduled to open in mid-December.

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Oakton Boys', Girls' Cross Country Advance to States

**Madison's Calem,
Herndon's Heuer
earn all-region.**

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

The Oakton cross country program had a strong showing at the Northern Region championships on Nov. 2 at Burke Lake Park. The girls' and boys' teams each finished runner-up in their respective races, earning a trip to the state meet.

The Oakton girls' team finished with a score of 92. Lake Braddock won the event with a total of 38. Chantilly (109) placed third and West Springfield (116) was fourth. South Lakes (248) finished 10th, Madison (275) was 11th. The top four teams and the top 15 individuals advance to states.

Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz placed fourth with a time of 17:16, which is the fastest time in school history. Hailey Dougherty (18:25) finished 17th, Briana Stewart (18:37) was 22nd, Maryn McCarty (18:45) finished 27th and Kristi Carrigan (18:49) was 30th.

"I was happy with the girls' finish but we realize we were fortunate with the final result of second place," Oakton Head Coach Alisa Byers wrote in an email. "Our region is very competitive and some highly respected programs won't be at states this year."

The Oakton boys' team totaled a score of 85, edging Robinson (87) for second place. Chantilly won the team title with a score of 39 and Lake Braddock (124) finished fourth. South Lakes (279) finished 10th.

Jack Stoney (15:29) led the Oakton boys' team with a fifth place finish. David Atkinson (15:53) just missed all-region with a 16th-place finish. Isamu Hosakawa (15:58) finished 23rd, Christopher Sprague (16:01) was 26th and Oliver Lopez-Gomez (16:07) was 38th.

"I was very proud of the boys' resiliency not only to make it out, but to come in second after our district performance," Byers wrote in an email. "We graduated six of our seven from last year, but this group of guys has learned how to race and when to fight."

In individual girls' action, Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase won her third consecutive region title (she finished second her freshman year) with a time of 16:42, which tied her for the third-best time in the history of the Burke Lake Park course. West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta (second, 16:58), Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen (third, 17:08), Oakton's Klimkiewicz and Robinson's Macey Schweikert (fifth, 17:27) complete the top five.

The rest of the top 15 were: Lake Braddock's Katie Roche (sixth, 17:33), Chantilly's Alexa Cowne (seventh, 17:33), Robinson's Lauren Berman (eighth, 17:44), West Springfield's Maddie Wittich (ninth, 17:45), Lee's Bailey Kolonich (10th, 17:49),



Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz placed fourth at the Northern Region cross country championships on Nov. 2, helping the Cougar girls' team to second-place finish and a state berth.



Madison's Matthew Calem (92) placed fifth and Herndon's Bradley Heuer (80) finished 11th at the Northern Region cross country championships on Nov. 2 at Burke Lake Park.



South Lakes' Andrew McCool finished 53rd with a time of 16:21 at the Northern Region cross country championships on Nov. 2 at Burke Lake Park.

Washington-Lee's Sarah Angell (11th, 18:08), West Potomac's Katie Genuario (17:55), Edison's Jennifer Flack (12th, 18:15) and Westfield's Sara Freix (18:02), Lake Braddock's Katy Kunc (13th, 18:19).

South Lakes' top finisher was Devin Nieuwsma (24th, 18:39) and Madison's top finisher was Amanda Swaak (26th, 18:44).

Chantilly's Sean McGorty won the boys' race with a time of 14:19, which tied him for the second-best performance of all time at Burke Lake Park. Lake Braddock's Nick Tuck (second, 15:03), Chantilly's Logan Miller (third, 15:23), Edison's Louis Colson (fourth, 15:27) and Oakton's Stoney complete the top five.

Madison's Matthew Calem (15:30) finished sixth, followed by Robinson's John Tolbert (seventh, 15:30), Chantilly's Faris Sakallah (eighth, 15:30), Stone Bridge's Brady Guertin (ninth, 15:31) and Chantilly's Ryan McGorty (10th, 15:34). Rounding out the top 15 were: Herndon's Bradley Heuer (11th, 15:39), South County's Alec Jones (12th, 15:42), Lake Braddock's Alex Corbett (13th, 15:43), Marshall's MacKenzie Haight (14th, 15:44) and Washington-Lee's Haileye Demsie (15th, 15:46).

South Lakes' top finisher was Ashkan Mohammadi (16:04), who placed 31st.

The state meet is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10 at Great Meadows.

News

Reston Orchestra at 25

From Page 7

David Ott, a Grammy-nominated classical composer.

"David Ott's piece was just so playful, so quirky," Everett said. "As a musician, I really enjoyed it, because it was a fun piece to dig in to."

Oboe and English horn player Pat O'Keefe said she joined about seven years ago after seeing a summer performance.

"I've played in a few local groups and bands, but they're a little short on oboe, but in an orchestra like this, an oboe can shine," she said. "I'll always remember a performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony about three years ago. It's about a 48-minute piece, and after we finished the audience just sort of sat there for about 30 seconds, and didn't react, and that's how I knew we really nailed it."

Kinzer said her favorite shows are ones in different venues around the community.

"We used to play at the [Reston Town Center] Hyatt, they would let us play right in the lobby," Kinzer said. "The movie theater would provide the popcorn and people would just pack the balcony to watch us. That was a lot of fun to play."

THE ORCHESTRA'S PERFORMANCES also incorporate their various community missions. The Nov. 18 performance to kick off the season will collect optional "admission" in the form of nonperishable food items for the Reston Community Center Food Drive.

Next year's Martin Luther King Jr. day celebration will feature the premiere of a piece by local composer Brian Scarbrough, a graduate of Herndon High School. The orchestra had previously premiered one of his symphonies in 2010.

They also perform outreach to local music students, who will be featured in the fourth concert of the season, a May 19 performance that will conclude the season.

"We always try to have at least one youth soloist at these performances, and it's exciting, because it's often their first time playing with an orchestra," Everett said.

Some of the orchestra's ensembles perform with local musical groups, such as choirs, as another way to stay involved with the community.

"It would be out of reach for some of these groups to hire and pay for an ensemble, but our players are willing to help out whenever they can," Fleary said. "They're the type of musicians that love playing whenever they can."

Fleary said he hopes to increase the educational outreach of the orchestra in future years. He admits



The Reston Community Orchestra prepares for its Nov. 18 show, which will kick off its 25th season.

Reston Community Orchestra's 25th Season

The Reston Community Orchestra's 25th season will feature five shows. All concerts will take place at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

♦ Sunday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m., "Once Upon A Time." Featuring a performance of Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite," Strauss's suite from "Der Rosenkavalier" and selections from Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream," the orchestra will collect donations for the Reston Community Center's Thanksgiving food drive.

♦ Saturday, Jan. 19, 4 p.m., "Tribute to Dr. King." The annual concert will feature special guest Beverly Cosham and the music of Reston resident, composer Brian Scarbrough.

♦ Sunday, March 17, 4 p.m., "Birthday Boys." The concert will feature Verdi's overture to "La Battaglia di Legano" and "I Vespri Siciliani," Wagner's "Siedfried Idyll," Birtten's "Soirees Musicales" and Lutoslawski's "Symphonic Variations."

Saturday, April 20, 7 p.m. The annual benefit for the Reston Community Orchestra, "Caribbean Night" will feature food, music and fun.

♦ Sunday, May 19, 4 p.m., "Youthful Expressions." Featuring Haydn's "Symphony No. 101," Silvestri, Ballard and Brubaker's "Polar Express Concert Suite" and Sayre's "A Disney Adventure," this concert will also feature the premiere of a new concerto which will include youth area soloists.

it will be difficult, but they plan to reach out to more private and schoolteachers, as well as continue their current level of involvement.

"Over the next five to 10 years, I'd like to see us continue to give to this community at the level we've been able to over the past few years," Fleary said. "We've established a pretty good identity here, and if that was lost, I think there would be a big hole in this community's cultural identity."

Fleary said he hopes to increase the educational outreach of the orchestra in future years. He admits

More information on the orchestra can be found at www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.



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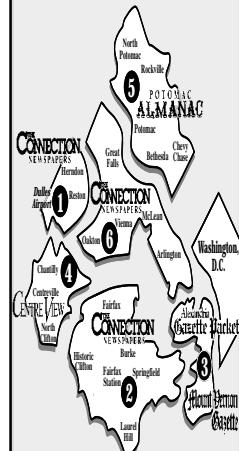
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Weight For It

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This reference is not about pounds, per se. It is about the two largest tumors in my lungs, inoperable in that they are located between the two halves which make up the whole lung. "Inoperable" defines stage IV lung cancer, along with the cancer having moved from its primary location (still unknown at this time) to a secondary location (my lungs) where we certainly have become familiar with it, but oddly enough, not symptomatic because of it.

One of the first questions my oncologist asked me way back when, at our initial Team Lourie meeting, was if I felt anything heavy in my chest. I said I did feel a weight/heaviness in the middle of my chest; in the exact spot he said, after I pointed it out, where the tumors were located, sort of confirming what all the test results and biopsy had indicated: a growth (determined to be malignant) where it wasn't supposed to be. To this day, 44 months later, the most recurring question my oncologist asks me when we meet is whether I feel that "heaviness" in my chest. More often than not, my answer has been "No," a clear indication, along with the results from my regular CT Scan, that the tumors that have been weighing on my mind were, for that particular two-month interval of treatment, not growing (appreciably, anyway; I try to be realistic). "News with which," as I so often say, "I can live."

I remember three and a half years ago when the significance of this heaviness issue became more obvious to me. It was at the first appointment I had with my oncologist after I had been infused with two or three rounds (six hours+ per round) of heavy-duty chemotherapy. Once the standard pleasantries and how-are-you-feelings were out of the way, we got into more detailed doctor-patient talk: "Kenny," my oncologist asked, "do you not feel anything?" Repeating the question out loud and sort of scoffing at its ambiguity, I found myself, saying/snickered: "Do I not feel anything? Well, I sort of don't feel that weight in my chest." To which my doctor enthusiastically replied: "That's great! That's where the tumors are located. The chemotherapy seems to be working." (To say we were all a bit encouraged at the time would be the understatement of the universe. Little did we know, the roller coaster had only just begun.)

And so, this same "weight/heaviness" question has continued to be asked at every appointment (now bi-monthly). And every minute of every day, I am self-assessing any weight that I may feel in my chest and/or any other sensations originating from where I know the tumors are situated. What little I know now is, if I feel weight in my chest, perhaps the tumors are growing – or maybe not (ergo my ongoing Memorex-type problem: "Is it real or is it...?") Maybe it's fluid in my lungs or scar tissue scabbing over a shrinking tumor or nothing-in-particular-just-something-I'm-super-sensitive-to because of my age or circumstances? Either way, I'm always waiting and wondering if the weight of the world need be on my shoulders, if occasionally it's not in my chest.

What this all means is, confusion. As much as you want a straight answer and a clear understanding of what was happening to you – and why, and what might happen still, the day you were diagnosed with the cancer was the day all of that ended. And to complicate matters further, under such stressful circumstances as a terminal diagnosis, I can readily admit: One's mind has a mind of its own, and control of it, as with your television – made famous during the beginning of "The Outer Limits" (a mid-60s classic), doesn't belong to you. (Unfortunately, unlike the television show, control does not return in an hour.)

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

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