

Osasenaga Kelly Aghayere, a South Lakes High School senior, is awarded a \$5,000 scholarship by the Northern Virginia Urban League Friday, April 19.

## South Lakes Senior Awarded Scholarship

NEWS, PAGE 8

### Autism Speaks Volumes For Student Volunteers

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Chamber Examines Future of Corridor

NEWS, PAGE 18



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From left, Del. Ken Plum (D-36) presents Stuart Rakoff with a Community Champion award. Rakoff was recognized for his efforts volunteering with Reston Interfaith by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill).



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova presents Mike Sneed with the Rising Star award at the annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Thursday, April 18.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

## Reston Residents Recognized

### Stuart Rakoff, Mike Sneed honored at Volunteer Service Awards.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Two Reston residents were honored for their efforts in the community Thursday, April 18, at the annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. Stuart Rakoff was named a Community Champion by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) for his efforts volunteering with Reston Interfaith and Mike Sneed won the Rising Star award for his volunteer work at Embry Rucker Community Shelter.

Rakoff has lived in Reston since 1974, and has been involved in volunteer activities since then. He has served three times as president of the Chadds Ford Cluster Association, twice on the board of Reston Interfaith and has served on the board of Greater Reston Arts Center, and chaired the Fine Arts Festival.

During his first stint on the Reston Interfaith Board, from 1984 to 1993, he served as vice president. His second term began in 2008, where he has chaired multiple task forces and worked to improve the organization's messaging and marketing.

"Stuart's impact on Reston Interfaith has been immeasurable. He's a person that has helped us set our sights on where we need to be today and 10 years from now," said Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith. "He's the guy who is always pushing us to look ahead and seek opportunities, for example, to seek out affordable housing near the Silver Line."

Rakoff also serves as an instructor at the Men's Violence program at the Fairfax County-Falls Church Community Services Board, a member of the Fairfax County Police Retirement System Board of Trustees and a member of the Hunter Mill District Budget Advisory Committee.



Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors present Mike Sneed with a Rising Star award at the annual Volunteer Service Awards Thursday, April 18.

Sneed was honored with the Rising Star award for the impact he has made in just a few years of volunteering. He saw a flyer two years ago advertising a need for volunteers at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, and since then he has volunteered at least twice a week, every week.

He has helped the shelter pick up food, organize donated books and transport donations around town. Susan Alger, volunteer resource manager at Reston Interfaith, called Sneed "every volunteer coordinator's dream come true."

"He means it when he says 'put me where you need me,' and always makes the most of each volunteer position that he is given. He is not afraid to get his hands dirty, or back sore and he dives right into projects that others would rather pass along," she said. "Mike approaches each project with a consistently cheerful spirit that others have asked to pitch in when they see it means they'll get to work alongside him."

Sneed also volunteers at The Closet, a Herndon thrift store, sorting donations on Saturdays, and has coordinated the St. John Neumann Catholic Church's participation in the county's Hypothermia Prevention Program.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D) hosted a town hall with more than 175 employees from Oracle and other Northern Virginia technology companies.

## Kaine Sees Immigration As a 'Talent Issue'

### Senator visits Oracle, discusses immigration reform.

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D) on Monday, April 22, visited Oracle, a global technology company in Reston, to meet with leaders of the Northern Virginia technology corridor and discuss his efforts to help their businesses grow and thrive, including a comprehensive solution to the nation's broken immigration system.

Kaine has advocated comprehensive immigration reform as an important way to attract talent to Virginia businesses that will help them compete and has voiced support for the bipartisan Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act that was introduced last week by a group of eight senators.

"Immigration is fundamentally a talent issue. How do we attract and train the most talented people in the world to come to Virginia and help grow our economy?" said Kaine. "I am encouraged by the bipartisan proposal laid out by a group of senators that recognizes the need for a comprehensive solution to an immigration system that hasn't been seriously reformed in more than 25 years."

Kaine has also cosponsored the I-Squared Act (S.169) that would expand visas for trained professionals, many of whom have the skills needed to fill high-demand openings in the technology sector. Currently, the U.S. Government allows for a limited number of workers to be sponsored for H-1B employment every year. I-Squared would raise the cap from 65,000 to 115,000 for employees with an advanced degree from a U.S. college or university. It also establishes a national STEM education fund that expands, re-

cruits and trains more teachers in STEM fields and expands opportunities for students to study in those areas.

Kaine began his visit with a tour of the facility and learned how Oracle integrates technological communication within different agencies and localities. Kaine also hosted a town hall with more than 175 employees from Oracle and other Northern Virginia technology companies. The town hall included discussions on immigration, foreign policy and campaign finance reform, as well as how citizens can be more involved in shaping decisions made by Congress.

"On many of these issues, including the measure to reduce gun violence that we voted on last week in the Senate, we have to make sure the reasonable majority is not drowned out by a vocal minority," said Kaine. "As citizens, it's important that you call and write our offices to let us know your thoughts. Keep doing that as we discuss and debate these complex issues and we'll get a better outcome."

Oracle recently partnered with Kaine on the release of his first bill, the bipartisan Troop Talent Act (S.700). Part of the measure will help more service members trained in information technology translate their skills to the civilian workforce. Oracle is committed to supporting veterans by partnering in credentialing efforts, offering internships and training programs, and matching employee gifts to veteran service organizations. Kaine also had the opportunity to meet with Wounded Warriors who were participants in an internship program at Oracle in Reston.

# Autism Speaks Volumes for Student Volunteers

**Fairfax County Public Schools use latest techniques to teach autistic students.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**n many ways, the three best friends—Anna Kate Martin, Devin Martin and Sarah Carmen—are typical sixth-grade girls.

They listen to Taylor Swift, play soccer, and enjoy sleepovers and shopping.

They can tell you what's cool (Dance Moms) and what's so over (Gangnam Style).

But when most of their classmates at Oakton Elementary School are outside during recess, the girls are inside doing something not so typical: volunteering with the school's 20-plus autistic students.

"I love the kids. I love interacting with them and all the special bonds that we've formed," said Anna Kate Martin, who began working with autistic students when she was in the fourth grade. Devin Martin (no relation to Anna Kate) began working with autism students this year, and they recruited Carmen, a new OES student who previously attended Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna.

"When I first started volunteering, I was worried they wouldn't like me. But I'm happy they gave me a chance," Anna Kate said. "Now, when they see us, they smile and get excited, and it makes your day."

On April 2, OES participated in "Light It Up Blue Day," a national day of awareness and acceptance of people who are affected by "Autism Spectrum Disorder" (ASD). According to Autism Speaks, one of the leading autism advocacy, awareness and research organizations, ASD is characterized by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

Children on the autism spectrum are making the kind of progress previously thought impossible. "I think when people hear the word autism, they automatically think of the character from 'Rain Man,'" said Jonelle Shipley, the school's speech-language pathologist, who works closely with the school's autism teachers. "What's important to know is not all autistic children are the same. They have various strengths and weaknesses and sometimes they just need a chance to be good at something."

**THE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS** do a number of activities with the autistic students, who are in the school's enhanced autism classes with special education teachers Anna Siller and Mary Lou Marcantuono. Some days the girls help them read; other days they blow bubbles or play Bingo. The goal is to give the students a chance to engage with their peers, and make them feel



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**On April 2nd, Oakton Elementary School participated in "Light it up Blue Day," a national day of awareness and acceptance of people affected by autism. Sixth-grader volunteers Devin Martin, 12, Anna Kate Martin, 12, and Sarah Carmen, 11, have given up recess to volunteer with autistic students.**

## Did you know...

### AUTISM

- ❖ is a developmental disability that can significantly impact communication, social skills and behavior;
- ❖ is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls;
- ❖ affects 1 in 50 children in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control;
- ❖ is considered an urgent public health concern by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

### What works:

- ❖ Early identification and treatment can significantly improve long term outlook;
- ❖ Intensive intervention using the scientific principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) is effective in teaching adaptive and academic skills;
- ❖ FCPS serves students with autism using ABA at the preschool, elementary and secondary levels.

### Information provided by Fairfax County Public Schools

- ❖ The FY 2013 budget for the ABA program is \$3,246,836, which includes funding school-based positions, professional development, support positions and allocation of instructional resources. A detailed description of budget allocations for this program can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/approved/FY13/FY2013ProgramBudget.pdf>

For more information about Fairfax County Public School's autism services, go to the following sites:

<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ABA/FAQs.shtml>

<http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/newsletter/docs/AutismAwarenessResources.pdf>

comfortable in the social, school setting.

"The students really teach you not to judge a book by its cover," said Devin Martin. "I've learned you have to be a little more patient, and maybe go over things a few extra times, but it helps them stay focused."

"I think they show you that they may do things in a different way, but that's okay," said Sarah Carmen. "It's really cool to see the students do things people thought they couldn't do."

The girls agreed that interacting with someone with special needs has taught them to have more patience and respect for anyone who is "different."

"What's great about Oakton is that the kids here are very accepting," Anna Kate Martin said. "They will go up to kids with autism and say hi. It makes them feel welcome."

"Our students gain so much from being around these girls. They have more self-assurance, and they learn different ways of communicating," said Marcantuono.

Although the three girls volunteer every school day, a number of OES students participate in other related activities, such as P.E. buddies, where a student volunteers to pair up with an autistic student during gym



**Drama teachers Bernie DeLeo (Thoreau Middle School and West Springfield High School) and Stacey Jones (Luther Jackson Middle School) have produced plays and school news spots for Autism Awareness Month.**

class.

"We teach the children we receive, whether it's autism, shyness or whatever," said kindergarten teacher Julia Rastelli, who produces a popular annual kindergarten musical that includes autistic students.

"Our school has a culture of compassion and acceptance, and these girls really take that to heart," Shipley said. "We're lucky to be in Fairfax County, where we have programs that students can benefit from at a very early age. No child is hopeless, and that's reflected in the way we teach."

## April is Autism Awareness Month

As autism awareness has skyrocketed, the disability—which experts are now calling an "epidemic"—has become a national priority.

The latest report, co-authored by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found autism spectrum disorder affects one in 50 children, well above the one in 88 number that had been used by the CDC just last year, and three times the rate the CDC found a decade ago.

According to a recent survey by the Florida Institute of Technology, nearly two-thirds of young moms and dads are concerned their child will be diagnosed with ASD.

"Since the average school bus holds 50 to 55 children, that means, statistically speaking, on average there is one child with parent-reported ASD on every school bus in America," reported the National Institute of Mental Health.

The increase, experts say, is largely due to improved diagnosis of ASD by doctors or other health professional in recent years, especially when the symptoms were mild.

Along with increased awareness, the social landscape has changed dramatically for students diagnosed with autism.

Politically, autism is a hot-button issue that's on the agenda of many lawmakers, who advocate a range of services, from respite services to mandated health insurance coverage for various therapies like applied behavior analysis (ABA).

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), whose brother-in-law has autism, has been a long-standing advocate for expanded health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder, and co-patroned several bills that address the issue.

Politics aside, most parents want to know what education services are available for their autistic child.

"Because of the size of Fairfax County, we are able to offer programs that few schools districts in the nation can provide, which help guide both students and parents through the education process," said Fairfax County School Board member Ryan McElveen. "Fairfax County uses Applied Behavioral Analysis with Pre K-12 students. The primary objective of ABA is to prepare students with autism and related disorders to function as independently as possible," said McElveen.

**THE APPROACH** emphasizes the importance of looking at the ABC's (antecedents, behaviors, and consequences) of behaviors and teaching new skills and behaviors.

New skills are taught through techniques such as reinforcement, shaping, prompting, and data is analyzed to measure progress on the acquisition of new behaviors and new skills.

"When you hear the 'A' word dropped, you think the worst, that your child won't be able to communicate and will never live an independent life," said Bernie DeLeo, a former special education teacher and drama teacher at Thoreau Middle School, who now teaches drama at West Springfield High School.

He said he and his wife, who grew up in McLean, moved back to Fairfax County from New York City in 2002 because of the programs and services offered by Fairfax County Public Schools.

"It's important for parents to be advocates, and to keep their expectation levels high. My wife and I were very hands on with our son. We expected more out of him, and he's surprised us at every turn."

## COMMENTARY

# Congress in Clutches of NRA

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



Before I criticize the lack of action on the part of the U.S. Senate on modest gun measures last week, I will freely admit that the Virginia General Assembly is clearly in the clutches of the National Rifle Association (NRA). The last several years have seen a steady decline in Virginia's attempt to reduce gun violence but without my support or vote. Most recently the General Assembly repealed the limitation on handgun purchases. The problem of gun violence is nationwide and appropriately should be addressed by the U.S. Congress. Opinion polls indicate overwhelming support for congressional action, especially as it relates to criminal background checks. At the same time, incidents involving gun violence continue to mount up.

With the strongest push by a president that has ever been seen on this issue, the U.S. Senate could not bring itself to act. Senator Tim Kaine, who has shown himself to be such a strong leader on this issue, spoke on the Senate floor last week on the sixth anniversary of the horrible shootings at Virginia Tech. He told the story of Professor Livin Librescu, who barricaded a classroom door with his body so that his students could escape to safety. While Professor Librescu had to be remarkably brave to do what he did, Senator Kaine told the senators they only needed to be brave enough to cast the right vote. To hear the senator's strong speech, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf0sY2yYc5k>.

In the end, the compromise bill to require checks for online sales and sales at gun shows, but not sales between neighbors and family members, failed by a vote of 54-46 with Senators Kaine and Warner voting for it. Senator Warner expressed his disappoint-

ment that the Senate "could not reach 60 votes for the reasonable, bipartisan legislation to strengthen background checks ... while also upholding Second Amendment rights." On the most controversial amendment to the bill, offered by Senator Dianne Feinstein to renew and strengthen a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, Senator Kaine voted in favor of it and Senator Warner voted no as they did respectively on limiting magazine sizes to 10 rounds. Senator Warner's statement did not address these votes.

The votes were extremely disappointing to everyone, including the president, who denounced the inaction of the Senate in the harshest of terms, the thousands of Americans who lobbied very hard for the bill's passage, and the local residents who have been so active in the Reston-Herndon Citizens Against Gun Violence.

The president said that the work must go on to pass the legislation or change the members of Congress. It was former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords who felt the trauma of gun violence so personally who summed it up best when she said that "Senators say they fear the NRA and the gun lobby. But I think that fear must be nothing compared to the fear the first graders in Sandy Hook Elementary School felt as their lives ended in a hail of bullets. ... Mark my words: If we cannot make our communities safer with the Congress we have now, we will use every means available to make sure we have a different Congress, one that puts communities' interests ahead of the gun lobby's."

Senators fell short of Senator Kaine's plea that they be brave enough to cast the right vote. It's time that we take back the Congress from the clutches of the NRA! And that means we take back some Senate seats!

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com) by Friday.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts selected **Jeffrey Ward** of Reston for its prestigious, nationally recognized internship program. From January to April 2013, he will serve as the education intern for the National Symphony Orchestra as part of the DeVos Institute of Arts Management. Ward is the son of Katherine and Will-

iam Ward and he graduated from Ithaca College in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in performance and music education. He received his master's degree in music performance from San Francisco Conservatory in 2011, where he was the winner of the Baroque Concerto Competition. He is also currently interning with Prelude: The Arlington Youth Orchestral Program. Previously, he spent a year teaching at the Community Music Center of Boston.

# Gun Lobby Over Gun Victims

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Last year, I wrote a letter to my senator, Mark Warner. In it, I appealed to him to reconsider his position on gun violence, to support renewal of an assault weapons ban, a ban of mega magazines, and closing the gun show loophole for potential mass murderers. My senator wrote a polite letter back reminding me of his "A" rating by the NRA and his staunch support of the Second Amendment. He noted my concerns and wished me well. Yep, I knew where he stood.

Shortly thereafter came the slaughter of 20 little children and their teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary. In the next few days, Senator Warner was quoted on radio and TV as saying he was rethinking his opposition to gun control. There was even a story about the senator saying his young daughter was deeply affected by Sandy Hook and had appealed to him to support actions to reduce gun violence.

Senator Warner, too, was deeply affected... for a few weeks. But, he laid low during public discussions of the president's proposed measures to seriously address gun violence with important policy actions including a new ban on assault weapons of war, a ban on mega magazines, universal background checks on gun buyers, research on the causes of gun violence and more. The deeply affected, but A-rated Warner remained silent while a couple of senators, also with gun lobby A-ratings, but stiffer spines, Manchin-D of West Virginia and Toomey-R of Pennsylvania, put forward a less than universal background check proposal and stout-hearted Diane Feinstein-D of California put forward her proposal

to ban assault weapons and mega clips.

Last Wednesday, Warner, after no doubt carefully counting the votes and possibly consulting with NRA pals, voted a timid yes on a watered down background checks proposal and NO on the assault weapons and mega magazines ban. Who knows, his NRA rating may fall to A- or even B+. That probably worries him more than what he'll tell his daughter he did at work on Wednesday—no doubt about his staunch defense of the Second Amendment. What could he tell her about the 30,000 or more Americans who will die the year after his votes—not to mention about future victims of the massacres with AR-15s and their mega clips.

It's true that Senator Warner was not alone among the cowards in the Senate—there were a few slinking Dems and all but a handful of Republicans. But, Senator Warner is my Senator, nominally a Democrat. Why couldn't he vote with Senator Tim Kaine in support of the common sense measures proposed by the president?! Kaine had the spine to stand up to the NRA.

As President Obama said after the Senate action, it's time to take action against those who choose to curry favor with the gun lobby over saving the lives of 30,000 victims of gun violence each year. Warner will seek re-election in 2014. Besides his top NRA rating for gun proliferation, he has a remarkable record of service to corporate America—from climate change and health care to minimum wages and worker rights, he protects the interests of the powerful. He has his groove and won't change. The question is, can the 99 percent afford six more years of him?

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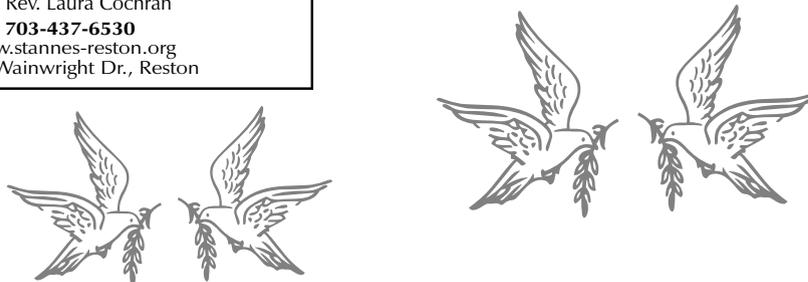
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# OPINION

## Connection Guide to Parks Wins 'Best in Show'

Investigative reporting, in depth coverage, education writing, photography, art, design, sports, garner Virginia Press Association honors.

The Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association, with winners announced on Saturday, April 20, in Norfolk.

The Connection project, *Insiders Guide to the Parks of Fairfax County*, published in our *Newcomers and Community Guides*, won a top honor of Best in Show for Art. The project also won first place for informational graphics. Spearheaded and researched by Jean Card, who also designed the pages, with photography by Craig Sterbutzel and map design by Laurence Foong, *Insiders Guide to the Parks* led judges to say: "This is chock-full of information. It probably leaves readers with no unanswered questions. Colors and typography work well together. The down-page photo and text wrap features are nice touches."

A multi-part series on immigration spearheaded by Victoria Ross won first place for in-depth or investigative writing. The Connection devoted multiple pages in multiple editions for multiple weeks to exhaustive reporting on immigration. "This entry clearly stood out above the rest in this category," said judges of Ross's work. "The author portrayed an excellent mix of data and human stories in covering all of the facets of this topic. It was obvious she spent a great deal of time working on this in-depth series. This was extremely comprehensive, well rounded and objective. This was not just reports, numbers and data but a terrific compilation of human stories, personal experiences, challenges and a great deal of hope." See the entire immigration package at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/).

Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three awards for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division, one circulation category above the Connection papers. Nicholas Horrock won first place, In-depth or investigative reporting, for a multi-part series on Potomac Yard. "Great reporting job and extremely thorough," said judges.

Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet, won second place also for In-depth or investigative reporting for *Guns From the South*. Michael Lee Pope, won third place in the same category, for *Looking Behind the Numbers*.

Kenneth Lourie won first place for Column Writing. Judge's comment: "An exceptionally friendly, down-home writing style. The best of the group without a doubt."

Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, first place, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics.

Nikki Cheshire, an intern for the Great Falls Connection, garnered a first place award for her dramatic breaking news photo, a helicopter rescue at Great Falls Park. See the award winning photo at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/).

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for public safety writing in the Centre View and sec-

ond place for public safety writing in the Fairfax Connection. Judges said: "Although the cases featured in these entries were sensational, which made them interesting in and of themselves, the writer maintained the readers' interest by her excellent storytelling ability. The stories not only conveyed facts but also emotion. The coverage was comprehensive and thorough with no questions left unanswered."

Alex McVeigh won first place for Education Writing, first published in the Oak Hill-Herndon Connection.

Photographer Deb Cobb won first place for an online slide show of coverage of daily patrols on the water in the Mount Vernon Gazette. See it at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/galleries](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/galleries) and search for Daily Marine Patrols. Cobb also won first place for general news photo for her photo of "Freezin' for a Reason," the polar bear plunge into Lake Anne.

Mike Pope won first place for breaking news for coverage of "New Leadership at Gunston Hall."

Pope also won third place for continuing coverage for "Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening" in the Mount Vernon Gazette, and third place for Mount Vernon Health, Science and Environmental Writing Portfolio.

The staff of Great Falls Connection won second place for overall excellence (general makeup). Judges said: "Although the tabloid format and general design has a 'features' feel, this is a beautiful paper. The text, use of color and section delineation makes it very easy to read and follow both news and features. All cover selections draw you in."

Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story for Memorial Day. Judge's comment: "A variety of great photos neatly presented helps tell the story of this important day."

Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo \* Santiago Valdez. Judge's comment: "Great Exposure."

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing. Judge's comment: "Think you can't say much in two words? This entry disproves that. I particularly like 'Bovine Intervention' with the subhead 'Del Ray's Holy Cow, ACT partner for local charities."

Louise Krafft won second place for picture story or essay for her coverage of the Mount Vernon High School graduation.

Jean Card won second place for page design in the Mount Vernon Gazette.

The Mount Vernon Gazette won second place for special section for the August *Insiders Edition*, *Community and Newcomers Guide*; and third place for special edition for the *Children's Gazette*.

Mary Kimm, third place, editorial writing for a package of education-related editorials.

Find all of the award-winning coverage at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), under Awards.

### AWARD WINNERS

#### SPECIAL AWARD: BEST IN SHOW, NON-DAILY ARTWORK

❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County.

#### FIRST PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Victoria Ross, Springfield Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting, Immigration
- ❖ Nicholas Horrock, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Potomac Yard
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County
- ❖ Nikki Cheshire, Great Falls Connection: Breaking News Photo, Rescue at Great Falls
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Mount Vernon Gazette: Online Slideshow, Daily Patrols Take to the Water
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Reston Connection: General news photo, Freezin' for a Reason
- ❖ Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Arlington Connection: Column Writing
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection: Education Writing, The Human Element of Learning
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection: Multimedia News Report, Secret Police
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Business and Financial Writing
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Breaking News Writing

#### SECOND PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Guns From the South
- ❖ Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Page Design
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Fairfax Connection: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette: Picture Story or Essay, Mount Vernon Graduation 2012
- ❖ Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story, Memorial Day
- ❖ Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo, Santiago Valdez
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Column Writing
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions: Insider's Guide.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll and Geovani Flores, Great Falls Connection: General Makeup.

#### THIRD PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting: Looking Behind the Numbers
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Page Design
- ❖ Laurence Foong, The Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing; five editorials about education
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Arlington Connection: Sports Feature Photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Picture Story or Essay, Celebrating the Irish.
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Multimedia News Report, Schools in Crisis
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Feature Series or Continuing Story, Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Health, Science and Environmental Writing.
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Arlington Connection: Sports Writing.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Jean Card, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong and Stuart Moll, Alexandria Gazette Packet: General Makeup.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions, Children's Edition.

#### MDDC

The Potomac Almanac, a Connection Newspaper located in Potomac, Md., competes in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and won at least six press association awards, which will be formally announced on May 17 at the MDDC Press awards luncheon. Susan Belford, John Byrd, Laurence Foong, Ken Moore (2) and Staff were named as winners.

## Reston CONNECTION

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# NEWS

Students who received honors in the state competition are, from left, Arsh Siddiqui, Vishnudev Jeyaraj, Viraj Chegu, Ayush Viswanathan, Likhitha Addagatla, Rithika Murugesan and Ella Chandan.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Forest Edge in World Finals

### Fifth graders compete at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

A team of fifth grade students from Forest Edge Elementary School won first place in the state Odyssey of the Mind competition on Saturday, April 13, and these students will compete in Odyssey of the Mind World finals to be held next month (May 22-25) at Michigan State University, Lansing, Mich.

The Forest Edge team has been working on their problem and presentation since October 2012. Their problem required the team “to create and present an original performance that includes building an email network server that has to send three emails to different locations with a spam filter and get a return receipt.”

Viswanathan praised his Forest Edge team, which took first place in NoVa Region 9 OTM competition last month, for their “huge accomplishment” in finishing

first in the regional and state tournaments and for their hard work throughout this year.

“I am so proud of them,” Viswanathan said. “These kids worked very hard every weekend and the other times as needed from October including spring break and holidays to design, build their solution and practice their performance.”

Viswanathan said it was the team’s demonstration of the creative solution for their long-term problem, on-the-spot spontaneous performance and teamwork that brought them up to first place. This is a great achievement to them.”

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.

Those who would like to donate may send checks made out to Forest Edge PTA—OOTM and mail the checks to the school office, 1501 Beacon Tree Lane, Reston 20190 or go to [forestedgepta.com/?pageid=110](http://forestedgepta.com/?pageid=110) and make a donation there.

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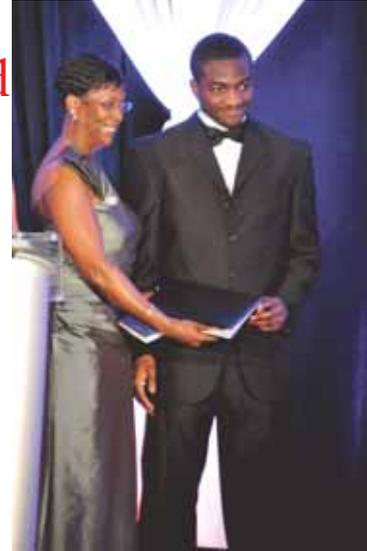
### South Lakes Senior Awarded Scholarship

**Osasenaga Kelly Aghayere awarded \$5,000 from Northern Virginia Urban League.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Urban League awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to local high school students at its annual Community Service and Scholarship Awards Dinner Friday, April 19. The organization, whose mission it is to enable disadvantaged youth to achieve economic and academic success, awarded one scholarship to South Lakes High School senior Osasenaga Kelly Aghayere.

"We need to excite our kids about science, technology, engineering and math in elementary school, so when they are a junior in high school they can really learn



**Osasenaga Kelly Aghayere, a South Lakes High School senior, is awarded a \$5,000 scholarship by the Northern Virginia Urban League Friday, April 19.**



**Randal Pinkett, Rhodes scholar and winner of season four of "The Apprentice," speaks at the annual Northern Virginia Urban League awards dinner Friday, April 18.**

those areas of focus and participate in related extracurricular activities, like Lego Robotics," said Cynthia Dinkins, president and CEO of the Northern Virginia Urban League. "Then when it's time to go to college they can seriously

consider majoring in one of those areas."

Dinkins said the importance of STEM learning must be imparted

SEE URBAN LEAGUE, PAGE 9

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, speaks at the Northern Virginia Urban League's annual Community Service and Scholarship Awards dinner Friday, April 19.**

# Urban League Awards Scholarships

FROM PAGE 8

by all parties in the educational system.

"We need assistance from the homes, the schools, the churches and any other community groups. Learning starts at home, so it's upon us as parents that we encourage children to learn things that are different than they might normally learn, to go outside the box a little bit," she said. "And it's incumbent upon the schools to ensure we have teachers in the classrooms that make math, science, engineering and technology exciting. There are so many things youth can do in those programs."

**AGHAYERE** is a candidate in the school's International Baccalaureate program. He was born in Nigeria and immigrated with his family when he was in fifth grade. He is involved in DECA, National Honor Society at South Lakes, and also volunteers at the Southgate Community Center, Reston Youth Club, Reston Youth Basketball, the Reston YMCA and Reston Interfaith.

"I'm planning on going to Morehouse College and planning to major in business, most likely in accounting," he said. "Accounting requires mathematics and that's why STEM is important to me."

The Northern Virginia Urban League also presented awards to Boeing and Randal Pinkett, a Rhodes scholar and winner of season four of "The Apprentice."

Pinkett said that the coming years would prove vital to the fu-

ture of minorities in the U.S., because they have an opportunity to increase their impact on the STEM fields.

He cited the fact that while the U.S. population consists of 13 percent African-American, 14 percent Hispanic and 1 percent Native American, they only make up 6 percent, 8 percent and .6 percent, respectively, of the U.S. college engineering population.

"Minorities, while we are witnesses to this digital world we live in, we are not as active participants in this technological revolution as we need to be," he said. "What we need is not more of us engaged in technology as consumers, we need more of us as active producers of technology, creating, designing, programming, imagining, because consumers change very little about the world. It's producers who innovate, change the landscape and the marketplace. That opportunity is right at our fingertips, because young people are already inclined to be comfortable with technology."

**MARC MORIAL**, the president and CEO of the National Urban League, was also in attendance, and he urged the audience to make STEM education a top priority.

"This commitment to STEM education, to enabling, ensuring and equipping our children is not only something that is good to do, it is an imperative for us," he said. "Great nations do not just buy things, great nations make and invent things."

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From left, Claire Dessart, Kay Walter, Peggy LeReche, Lisa Kelley and Sarah Bermingham are recognized for their efforts in supporting Herndon-Reston FISH Saturday, April 20.



Guests at the annual FISH Fling fundraiser dance to the sounds of Free Tom Saturday, April 20.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

# FISH Holds Fling Fundraiser

## Annual event supports Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**A** Herndon couple had lost their daughter to brain cancer. She was in a coma for the last six weeks of her life, and her father stayed by her side to the end, which cost him his job. This caused the family to miss paying their bills and were in danger of having their utilities cut off, before they contacted Herndon-Reston FISH, who were able to make their payment.

Hundreds of stories like this are why supporters of FISH gathered Saturday, April 20, at the Crowne Plaza Dulles, site of the annual FISH Fling. FISH stands for Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help, and the funds raised at the annual fling went directly to providing that help.

"This event is a chance to bring together people who know how important it is to support safety net organizations like FISH that assist our neighbors," said Janet Hyman, president of FISH.

**FISH SUPPORTS** those in need by providing emergency rent or utility payments, transportation to medical appointments, furniture and other essentials.

"The concept of Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help speaks for itself, and carries with it the thought, there but for the grace of God go I," said Don Owens, a FISH volunteer. "I teach a budget class for FISH, and I've had students who have PhDs, or have had great jobs, but they just need a little help, maybe a few hundred dollars to meet their rent, money for a prescription or just a tank of gas to get to work. In this economy, there are all kinds of people that need help, and FISH can provide it."

Since the start of this fiscal year on July 1, 2012, FISH has paid out more than \$220,000 to more than 200 clients, with no individual receiving more than \$600.

The event also recognized several new Star Fish honorees, supporters of FISH that have earned

special recognition for their efforts. Claire Dessart, Kay Walter, Peggy LeReche and organizers of the Bradley Farm Haunted House were honored this year.

Dessart has been a volunteer at FISH's thrift store, The Bargain Loft, since 2009. She works two to three shifts per week, and is known as one of the store's most reliable volunteers.

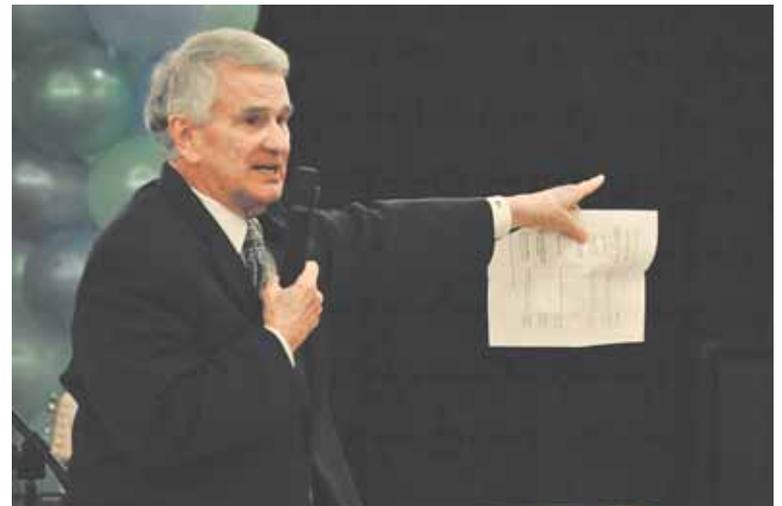
"She is always willing to come in as a sub, even at the last minute," said Gale Napoliello, executive director of FISH. "She loves working for FISH and is always encouraging people to shop at The Bargain Loft."

Walter volunteers for the FISH Assistance Program and also provides transportation to medical appointments.

"She has volunteered for FISH for five years, and is always ready to help when called by the coordinators," Napoliello said.

Walter says she loves the way FISH provides such unique assistance to those in need.

"FISH is a perfect volunteer opportunity for me because I can do my phone assistance from home," she said. "The relief I hear in the voices of the people we help is enough to keep you doing this for-



Del. Tom Rust (R-86) serves as auctioneer during a fundraising auction at the FISH Fling, which raised money for Herndon-Reston FISH Saturday, April 20.

ever.

LeReche has served with FISH for the past five years, and serves on the board of directors and coordinates the FISH Financial Workshops.

"Her mother volunteered years ago at The Bargain Loft, and her volunteer work is one way Peggy continues her legacy," Napoliello said. "Even though she works full time for Dominion Power, she always finds time to help our neighbors in need."

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF BRADLEY FARM** was recognized

for their annual Haunted House, the proceeds of which are donated to FISH. Since 2009, more than 30 residents of the neighborhood plan and construct a themed haunted house in the neighborhood's pool house.

"It is the largest charity haunted house in Northern Virginia, and last year they added the Spooky Sprint Fun Run and Walk, another fundraiser event for children," Napoliello said. "Last year they raised \$8,000 for FISH."

More information on FISH can be found at [www.herndonrestonfish.org](http://www.herndonrestonfish.org).



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## Rescue Reston to Hold Fundraiser

Rescue Reston Spring into Action Rally will be held on Sunday, May 5, 5-10 p.m., at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. Join fellow rescuers to eat, drink, bid on silent auction items to raise money to save Reston's open space. Silent Auction will provide financial support to Rescue Reston's attorneys to present a written statement before the hearing at the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing. \$65. RSVP required. 571-205-8874 or [www.RescueReston.org/events](http://www.RescueReston.org/events).

## FranNet to Host Franchise Fair

The Capital Area Franchise Fair, the semi-annual learning event hosted by FranNet of Virginia in partnership with the Community Business Partnership and SCORE, will help prospective entrepreneurs explore franchise options that fit with their financial, professional and personal goals. Experts will be sharing advice about: the best franchise fit, industry trends, the franchise business model, local regulations affecting franchises, and how to fund a franchise. FranNet of Virginia is a franchise matchmaking service in Virginia and DC that provides free counseling as well as educational seminars to entrepreneurs through SCORE and the Virginia Small Business Development Centers; government agencies; and local military bases. The fair will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 1-5:30 p.m. at the Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston. Tickets cost \$35 (\$45 at the door). Register at <http://franchiseairspring2013.eventbrite.com/>. For questions, contact Heather Rosen at 703-291-0939 or [hrosen@frannet.com](mailto:hrosen@frannet.com).

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PHOTO BY ANGLE SECKINGER

Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design decorated a luxury condominium for a retired couple who wanted to downsize after selling their suburban home. Real estate experts say high-end condominium sales are on the rise.

**What Housing Slump?**

Real estate experts explain the rise in luxury condominium sales.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOODHART GROUP OF McNEARNEY ASSOCIATES, INC.



Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart says sales of high-end real estate in the City of Alexandria, such as this property, have increased over the past year.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When a retired couple decided it was time to leave their sprawling suburban home, they wanted to downsize without giving up luxury. As a result, they purchased a high-end condominium and hired Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design to create a serene and sophisticated space.

“The couple are retired professionals, empty nesters who lead active lives and didn’t want the maintenance of a single family home,” said Proxmire. “[They] wanted to blend the furniture, accessories and mementoes they had each collected. ... They wanted a home that was elegant, comfortable, and that also allowed them to lock and leave on a moment’s notice.”

Proxmire’s clients are part of rebound in the high-end condominium market. The National Association of Realtors reports that condominium purchases are on the rise, and says that sales are

13.9 percent higher than they were at the same time last year.

David DeSantis, a partner at TTR | Sotheby’s International Realty says his company has seen an increase in luxury condominium sales in the Washington region in recent months. “In the past several months we have broken records for high-end condo prices, and we recently sold the most expensive condo ever sold in the Washington region, which was \$7.5 million,” he said. “We sold a number of condos at Turnberry Tower in Rosslyn [Arlington].”

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Bethesda attract those who want both luxury and convenience. “The appeal of these buildings is the fact that you’ve got these large apartments that are like homes except with a health club and concierge service,” said DeSantis. “The close-in suburbs are good places to live. There are good stores, good restaurants and you don’t have the issue of a long commute to work.”

Realtors say that properties close to public transportation are in demand. “Reston is on fire. The condos are turning very quickly there because the Metro is coming,” said Great Falls-based realtor Dianne Van Volkenburg of Long & Foster Companies. “Reston is one of the places where inventory is ex

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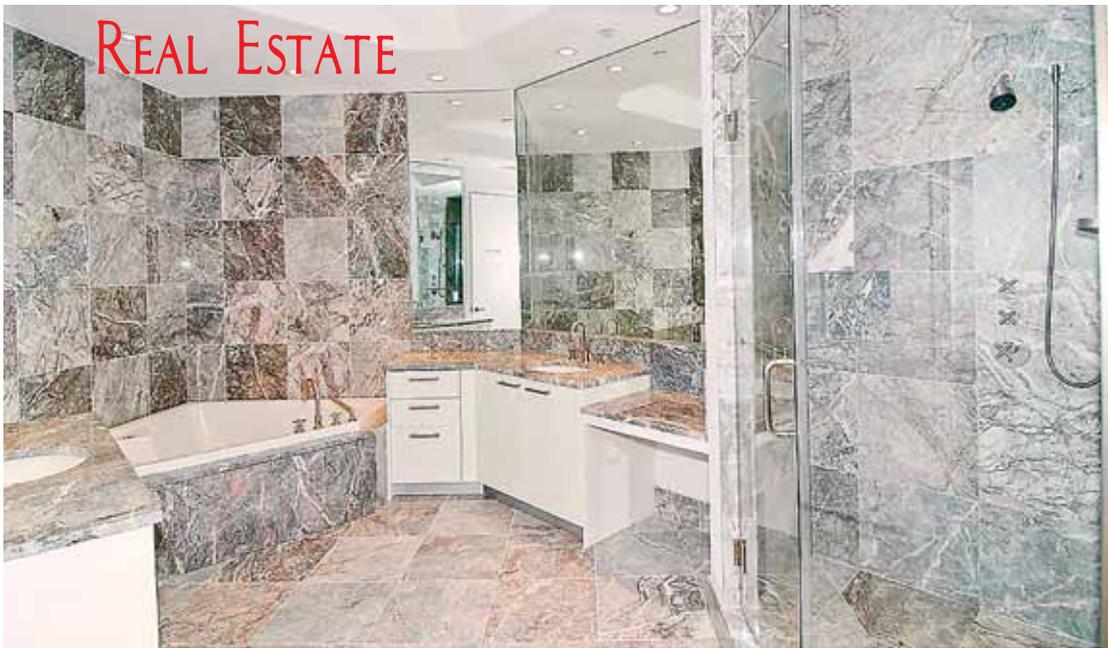


PHOTO COURTESY OF TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Sales of condominiums built with luxurious materials, such as those used in the bathroom of this condominium at Turnberry Tower in the Rosslyn neighborhood of Arlington, are on the rise.

## Luxury Condos in Demand

FROM PAGE 12  
tremely limited, so you're getting multiples offers over list price."

Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group of McEneaney Associates, Inc. said, "Sales and showings for properties have really picked up across the board in Alexandria City. The Oronoco is all high-end, one-level condos near the Old Town [Alexandria] waterfront and those are selling very well."

Bob Wulff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship and the master's in real estate development program at George Mason University in Fairfax, says there are two primary types of buyers who are drawn to condominiums. "There are first time homebuyers and move-down homebuyers who've sold their large suburban homes," said Wulff. "Move-down buyers are looking for luxury in a walk-able neighborhood that is near mass transit."

DeSantis agrees. "A big portion

of those clients are the empty-nester crowd," he said. "Their kids have graduated from college and

**"In the past several months we have broken records for high-end condo prices, and we recently sold the most expensive condo ever sold in the Washington region, which was \$7.5 million."**

— David DeSantis, partner, TTR | Sotheby's International Realty

they are looking for a lifestyle change. These people were not pinched by the recession, but it also wasn't a good time to sell their big house in suburbs."

In addition to empty nesters, DeSantis says that high-income professional singles and couples often choose luxury condominiums. "Those two groups are leading to the up-tick in sales," he said.

Walter Molony, economic issues media manager for the National Association of Realtors, says the

boost in condominium sales is the result of a stronger economy. "It is part of the rising tide that is floating all boats," he said. "After four years of a sluggish economy that impacted people's confidence, affordability conditions have improved and people have the wherewithal and the confidence to buy. There is less inventory in the low-end market, and there are more buyers than sellers, which is driving demand up."

DeSantis said, "For the most part, the Washington, D.C., area was not hit as hard, so we're coming back faster. One of the things that we've seen in the real estate industry is that there's no shortage of people in this market who have the resources to buy high-end housing. They held off on buying while the direction of the economy ... was unclear, but people are now willing to spend the money that they've had all along."

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### Herndon

1141 Bandy Run Rd.....\$800,000...Sun 12-3.....Leslie Thurman...Long & Foster..703-895-6000  
12200 Meadowstream Ct.....\$615,000...Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Gaibler.....Weichert..703-851-5600  
1530 Hiddenbrook Dr.....\$385,000...Sun 1-4.....Pat Orend...Long & Foster..703-407-3300  
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# Viewpoints: Housing Market Blossoms in Area



**Andy Krum**  
ABR, GRI, CDPE/Keller Williams Realty – Reston,  
703-679-1700

“This past February, the market bloomed well in advance of the cherry blossoms! Sellers are more than likely dancing on their roofs. With low inventory, prices have been climbing. Not only are most homes selling fast, lucky sellers may see multiple offers—some including escalation clauses as well. For the Reston market, the long-awaited opening of the Wiehle Avenue Metro stop later this year has not escaped notice. More buyers are looking here knowing they can avoid the Rt. 7 traffic or the toll road. Interest rates are still good, but there is competition. Buyers need to do their research and be ready to act when the right home becomes available.”



**Andrea Karalyos**  
Realtor, REP Coordinator, Prudential PenFed Realty – Reston, 703-716-2900

“Right now is the best time to sell or buy real estate in the Reston area. With the opening of the new Silver Line Metro approaching, we have seen an enormous increase in sales. The median sales price is up by 7.4 percent compared to last year. If your home is priced well and shows nicely you will have no problem selling. Reston is focused on the future yet still manages to stay true to its core principles of “Live, Work, Play and Get Involved.”



**Leslie Kaplan Thurman**  
Long & Foster – Thurman & Assocs. Herndon/  
Reston, 703-439-1921

“Overall, I would call the market ‘great.’ It’s the resurgence we’ve been waiting for. Houses are selling in a much shorter time. I deal with a lot of higher priced homes, \$800k and above, and some of those sellers do get frustrated when they see how quickly other homes go under contract, and they are still waiting to make their sale. But even in that upper tier market, the houses that used to take six months or a year or more, are going much more quickly. We help our sellers by developing a marketing plan that includes realistic pricing strategies taking into account their needs and their situation. One concern in this revitalized market is in regards to appraisals. I have run into appraisal problems recently, with just \$5k-\$6k gap. And there is no oversight or appeals process. We want solid steady growth in the market, but oversensitive appraisals could hold the market back.”



**Chris Pezzana**  
Managing broker, Weichert Realtors – Reston/  
Herndon, 703-264-0000

“There are fewer homes to sell and that means if it’s priced right and in good shape, they are getting sold quickly. So far we have not seen any negative impact from sequestration. One barometer of the market is the absorption rate. The Northern Virginia Assoc. of Realtors (NVAR), which includes Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria, currently have less than a two-month supply of homes in inventory. In our area, I would say we have even less. In Reston, we are also looking at a lot of new condos coming on the market, fairly soon right in the heart of Town Center and later at ParcReston, also currently under construction. Developers are banking on the arrival of the new Silver Line Metro stop. So far, interest has been really strong in that area and the impact on detached and town houses should also be positive.”

—ANDREA WORKER

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## Conflicted, Times Two



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

About what I'm feeling and whether I should even be writing about it. Obviously, the "it" ("confliction," one of my father's many made-up words), has to do with yours truly having stage IV lung cancer (duh!). Specifically, it has to do with the feedback I received today from my nephrologist (kidney specialist), an appointment I have scheduled every four to six months. The ongoing concern being, that the toxicity of my previous three years of infused chemotherapy has caused collateral damage (internally for sure, externally, not so much), especially since I have lived longer than the standard treatment protocols anticipated/have been studied. Over this time, lab work and patient observation has indicated that something not totally unexpected has happened (other than my still being alive that is): damage to internal organs not directly related to the underlying cancer diagnosis. And what has been happening is that my creatinine levels (likely a side effect of my previous 18-month-long Avastin infusion) and bilirubin (likely a side effect of the – at present, nine months-long and counting, daily dose of tarceva, a targeted treatment/pill I take daily), are reaching new highs. Elevated levels of which are hardly grist for the rumor mill. In fact, it's quite the opposite: cause for concern.

The problem is that neither chemotherapy nor targeted treatment have been – heretofore, considered long-term treatment options for stage IV lung cancer patients because long-term survivors are rare. As such, studies determining such multi-year protocols have been equally rare, given the minimal patient population. And since I now fall into this "rare" population, how to treat me is more feel than established fact. The book hasn't been written, so to speak, because I'm the "book."

That being said, what the nephrologist said to me was: "You look great. Are you in remission?" (Not that I have been told.) "No one could tell by looking at you that you're not healthy." All of which I was grateful to hear, but hesitant to embrace. Ergo, the first "confliction." All of a sudden (four-plus years, actually), I'm not terminal? Given that I'm now living year five post-diagnosis, the chance, statistically speaking, that I'll be alive in year six is only 14.8 percent (see previous column of the same name). So, am I closer to the end of my life or the end of the cancer? That's a fairly wide disparity between fact and fiction. Am I living longer or dying sooner?

"Confliction" number two: What's the benefit to me, in even writing about what the nephrologist said? It feels as if I'm putting the proverbial cart before the horse. I'm not cured. There is no cure (as my oncologist clearly advised Team Lourie back in February, '09: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you." Hard words to live by). To the point then, what advantage, what purpose does discussing being cured (in remission) serve? My "CT" scan next week will tell me what I should be feeling; that's when the diagnostic rubber really hits the road. It doesn't matter what I think or feel – or write about – now, the tale of the tape will be in the "computerized topography." Until the radiologist completes his analysis and my oncologist communicates those findings to me, embracing what the nephrologist said to me or even writing about my reaction to it seems counterproductive somehow. I can't believe in miracles. I have to believe in myself. However, believing in one without the other is perhaps the reason I'm so conflicted. Or, I just think too much.

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

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I'am a slow walker,  
but I never walk back.  
-Abraham Lincoln

# SPORTS

## Madison Girls' Lax Beats McLean

**Nine Warhawks score at least one goal.**

By JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter falling behind McLean during an April 18 matchup, Madison girls' lacrosse coach Amanda Counts had a message for the Warhawks during a timeout.

"[I told them] that they need to have pride in how they play," said Counts, whose Warhawks defeated 2012 state runner-up Langley six days prior. "Coming off a big win last week, where they were super excited, it seemed like they were resting on that and they need to recognize that we have a long season ahead of us and accomplishing our interim goals as we go does not mean we get to slack off at any point."

"We have to be prepared for what's coming down the line."

While Madison stumbled during the first eight minutes, the Warhawks proved prepared to dominate the remainder of the contest.

Madison outscored McLean 20-5 during a 36-minute stretch and defeated the Highlanders 21-11 at McLean High School. Madison trailed 4-1 early, but the Warhawks responded with four straight goals and 11 of the next 14 en route to a 12-7 halftime lead. Madison scored nine of the first 11 second-half goals and cruised to victory.

"I think we started working together as a team," Madison junior Alex Condon said in regard to the Warhawks overcoming their slow start. "I feel like the first few minutes, everyone was playing as an individual. I feel like after that, we came out, we got focused and we did what we needed to do to get it together."

**NINE DIFFERENT WARHAWKS** scored at least one goal and seven scored at least two. Senior attack Carly Frederick led the way with four goals. Condon, junior Katie Kerrigan and senior Melissa Kellan each had three goals and sophomore Kierra Sweeney,



**Madison senior midfielder Melissa Kellan shoots during a game against McLean on April 18.**

junior Sam Babbitt and senior Erin Callahan each had two. Juniors Maddie Renshaw and Rachel Brennan each added one.

On April 22, Madison beat South Lakes 17-6, improving the Warhawks' record to 7-1, including 4-0 in the Liberty District.

Many of Madison's juniors and seniors were members of the program's 2011 undefeated state championship team. The Warhawks have also won each of the last two Liberty District titles. This season, Madison has a greater dependence on its elder athletes to provide leadership and on-field production as the younger Warhawks don't possess as much experience as in previous years.

"This is a whole new team," said Frederick, who was a sophomore on the 2011 state title team. "We're not used to this kind of team at all. It's definitely a challenge, but one that we're all taking optimistically. There are times where it's very frustrating. I've never been on a team like this. Being a senior and being a captain, I really enjoy trying to help the other players and trying to get everyone on the same page. I don't think captains in previous years that I've played have ever had to have that much responsibility. It's a lot of pressure."

How have the Warhawks remained successful?

"We hold [younger players] accountable

to the level that our coaches expect us to be playing at," Frederick said. "It's definitely tough. There have been a lot of emotions throughout the season, but everyone is starting to really come together and I don't think that anyone has really seen the best of Madison yet and I'm excited for that game to come."

Condon was a freshman on the 2011 team.

"When I was a freshman, we had great seniors that helped everyone," said Condon, now a junior. "They were always willing to stay after practice with you and help you out and spend extra time with you and I [looked] up to them and try to do that with the young girls here."

Counts said the elder Warhawks need to have athletes of all ages playing well in order for the team to be successful.

"They have a lot to accomplish," she said. "There are girls who are experienced here and have been in the program and have been with us through successes, but we have a lot of new girls, so that's not something every single person has in their back pocket. They need to bring everybody up to the same level. We have to play together to get anything done."

After losing to Madison, McLean defeated Marshall 16-12 on Monday, improving the Highlanders' record to 4-5, including 2-3



**McLean senior Ava Mirzadegan scored three goals against Madison on April 18.**

in the Liberty District.

**AGAINST MADISON**, senior attack Ava Mirzadegan and freshman midfielder Alessandra Pelliccia each scored three goals. Junior midfielder Nikki Lind finished with two goals, and sophomore attack Grace Tiernan, senior attack Sibylle Miller and sophomore midfielder Elise Koehl each finished with one.

Mirzadegan and Lind scored the first two goals of the April 18 contest against the Warhawks. After Frederick put Madison on the board, Pelliccia and Lind scored, giving McLean a 4-1 lead. Pelliccia scored from free position with 9:27 remaining in the first half, giving the Highlanders their final lead of the night at 6-5.

"I think our girls played hard the entire time," McLean head coach Alexandra Whitworth said. "They were fired up the whole time for this game. This is always a big rivalry that we have against Madison. I think [the Warhawks] just kind of capitalized on their shots. Our shooting kind of went downhill as the game went on. Their goalie had some really good saves."

McLean will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29.

Madison will host Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

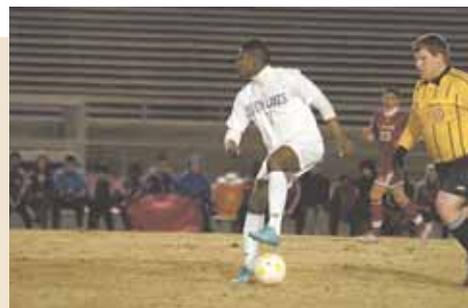
### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### South Lakes Boys' Soccer Wins Seven Straight

The South Lakes boys' soccer team responded to its season-opening loss to T.C. Williams on March 14 with seven consecutive victories. During the winning streak, the Seahawks have outscored opponents 11-3.

As of Tuesday morning, South Lakes was ranked No. 3 in the Washington Post's top 10.

South Lakes faced McLean on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The



**Suliman Dainkeh and the South Lakes boys' soccer team won seven of their first eight games.**

Seahawks will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25.

#### Herndon Boys' Soccer Ties Oakton

The Herndon boys' soccer team played to a 2-2 tie with Oakton on Monday, moving the Hornets' record to 6-1-3 overall and 1-0-2 in the Concorde District.

Herndon will travel to face Centreville at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 25.

#### Northern Region Baseball Top 10

The Madison baseball team remained atop the Northern Region top 10 and Vienna rival Oakton is ranked No. 2 in this week's

coaches poll.

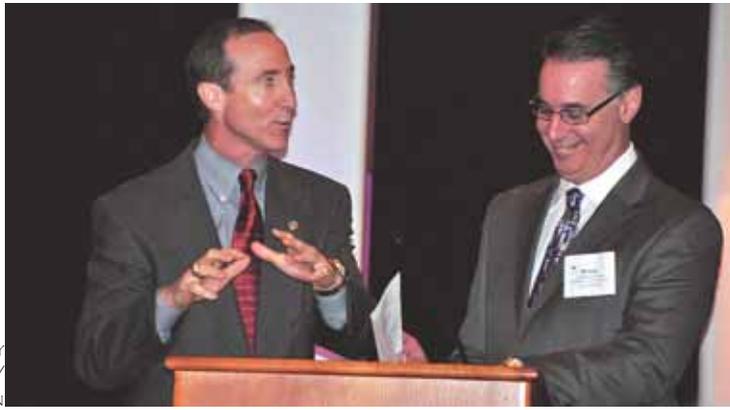
Defending state champion Lake Braddock is ranked No. 3, followed by Centreville (4), Robinson (5), Yorktown (6), Chantilly (7), West Potomac (8), Langley (9) and South County (10).

T.C. Williams, Stone Bridge, McLean, Westfield and Fairfax also received votes.

The Concorde District has four teams in the top 10, most among the four districts in the Northern Region. The Patriot District has three teams in the top 10, the Liberty has two and the National has one.

From left, Mark Ingrao, president and CEO of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and C. Michael Ferraro, chairman of the chamber board, welcome visitors to the chamber's annual Virtual Realty Tour Friday, April 19.

PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION



## Chamber Examines Future of Corridor

### Annual Virtual Realty Tour addresses coming of Metrorail.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Virtual Realty Tour of the Dulles Corridor Friday, April 19, at the Dulles Westin in Herndon. The annual event, which examines present and future development and other opportunities along the Silver Line, was especially notable this year, given that Phase One of the Silver Line will be open in less than nine months.

"By the end of the year, rail will be in this corridor and in operation," said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who also just concluded her term as chair of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority board. "And when you look at what Metro brings, over \$200 million is generated around each station as it's built."



**Gerald Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, speaks at the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce's Virtual Realty Tour to discuss the future of Fairfax County's economy Friday, April 19.**

**THE RESTON STATION DEVELOPMENT**, adjacent to the Wiehle Avenue station, is currently under construction to provide a focal transit point for traffic heading to the new station.

"It's going to be a major transit center, incorporating 2,300 spaces dedicated to Metro parking, they've also included a bus transfer facility for 10 buses, three layover bays, a large park and ride structure and a secure bike room for storage," said Maggie Parker of Comstock Partners. "That serves as a platform for a plaza that provides direct access to the Wiehle Station that sits in the middle of the toll road, and it also serves as the base for five buildings going up.

These include two residential buildings and three office buildings.

Gerald Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, said that while the county hasn't been immune to the recession and the threat of sequestration, he believes the area's economy is sufficiently diverse.

"Even if the Federal Government cuts back 5 percent every year for the next 10 years, they will still be the largest buyer of goods and services anywhere in the world and we are right in its backyard," he said. "We start this potential impact on

government contracting from a position of strength. The unemployment rate in Fairfax County right now is just over 4 percent. If [employment] increases by 25 percent, we will reach what the President's Council of Economic Advisors call 'full employment.'"

He noted that Fairfax County has long been working on diversifying its economy.

"The first element of that was 35 years ago when the then-Mobil Corporation came out of New York down to Fairfax County," he said. "We've been diversifying away from federal contracting. In recent years we've done this by adding companies like Hilton Worldwide in Tysons Corner, Bechtel, or Volkswagen North America. There are more coming."

He said that factors that led to the county's initial success, like access to a talented workforce and accessibility throughout the capital area, will only be enhanced by the coming of Metro.

There are several proposals underway that would add additional connectivity between

areas south and north of the Dulles Toll Road. Currently the only cross streets over the Dulles Toll Road are Hunter Mill Road, Wiehle Avenue, Reston Parkway and Fairfax County Parkway.

Mark Looney of Cooley LLP says there are several possibilities for new connections across the toll road.

"**ONE PLAN**, tentatively titled the 'Soapstone extension,' is to build a bridge over top of the toll road somewhere between Plaza America and Wiehle Avenue," he said. "There have been about eight or 10 different alignments reviewed by county transportation staff, they're in the process of narrowing down potential alignments, and coming up with one to send to the Board of Supervisors."

Cooley said there is also a subterranean option. "Similarly, the transportation staff has been analyzing potential tunnel connections under the toll road that would extend Town Center Parkway, which is west of Reston Parkway, under the toll road and connect it with Sunrise Valley Drive," he said. "This is needed to facilitate movement internally within Reston, as opposed to a thoroughfare moving people through Reston."

## ENTERTAINMENT



"Foot Prints of Ladies," by My Phoung Nguyen

### Fine Art Photography Competition Showcases Finalists

The work of 35 finalists in the 2013 Fine Art Photography Competition goes up in the Fine Art Photography exhibit, open through May 26. The 35 were selected from 76 photographers submitting over 200 entries; juror Barry Schmetter announces winners during the Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

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

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 25

**Carlos Ibay.** 2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The blind pianist and tenor who has performed on five continents plays the sixth in a series of seven free Thursday afternoon "Meet the Artists" concerts. 703-503-3384 or [www.olligmu.edu](http://www.olligmu.edu).

North Shore Drive, Reston. A one-woman play about the life of Harriet Tubman, performed by Marlene G. Stevens. [www.mlkchristianchurch.org](http://www.mlkchristianchurch.org).

#### THURSDAY/MAY 2

**Chamasyan Sisters: 20th Century Russian Greats.** 2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. International competition winners and sisters play works by Shostakovich, Rachmaninoff and Babajanyan. 703-503-3384 or [www.olligmu.edu](http://www.olligmu.edu).

**Patty Larkin at Wolf Trap.** 8 p.m., at the Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Songstress and master guitarist Parry Larking brings her bluesy jazz-infused urban sound. \$22. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

#### FRIDAY/MAY 3

**Sun, Sand, Surf and Song.** 7:30 p.m., at the Elden Street Player's Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The music of the islands as sung by the Herndon Town Square Singers, with selections from "South Pacific," "The Little Mermaid," the Beach Boys and other favorites. \$12. 703-787-7300.

**26th Annual Evening of Comedy.** 8 p.m., at the Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Comedians Jimmie "JJ" Walker, Kelly Monteith, Mitchell Walters bring their stand-up performances to the Barns of Wolf Trap. \$25. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

#### SATURDAY/MAY 4

**Fourth Annual Courtney Schilling Memorial 5K.** 8 a.m., at Forest Edge Elementary School, 1501 Becontree Lane, Reston. Race in memory of a teacher who died of cancer, with proceeds going to educational programs at the school. [JKenney@fcps.edu](mailto:JKenney@fcps.edu), [mmalone@fcps.edu](mailto:mmalone@fcps.edu) or [www.courtneyschilling5k.com](http://www.courtneyschilling5k.com).

**Reston Farmers Market Opening Day.** 8 a.m.-noon, at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Produce, meats, baked goods, kettle corn, soft ice cream, fresh milk, honey, flowers and fresh seafood from the Chesapeake Bay. [www.restonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.restonfarmersmarket.com).

#### SUNDAY/APRIL 28

**39th Annual Walk On the Hill.** 2-5 p.m., W&OD Trail and Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Using self-guided walking tour maps, you may browse throughout the lawns and gardens of homes marked with special "welcome" signs. 703-938-5187 or [historicviennainc.org](http://historicviennainc.org).

**"Harriet."** 3 p.m., at Martin Luther King, Jr. Christian Church, 11400

## New Superintendent Named

### Karen Garza selected as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.



The Fairfax County School Board unanimously approved educator Karen Garza of Texas to be the next superintendent of the 181,000 student district at its April 18 school board meeting.

For the past four years, Garza has been the superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. She will succeed retiring Superintendent Jack Dale on July 1, 2013. Her four-year contract runs through June 30, 2017, and she will earn \$265,000 in her first year.

"I'm thrilled that we have been able to finalize the appointment and contractual arrangement with Dr. Garza," said Ilryong Moon, Fairfax County School Board chairman. Moon said several school board members visited Lubbock early last week and "all of us came away extremely impressed with the community's observations regarding Dr. Garza's tenure as its superintendent."

"I could not be more pleased with the outcome of our extensive search process for a new superintendent," said school board member Ryan McElveen (at-large.) McElveen said one of the primary characteristics the community hoped to see in a new superintendent was the willingness to engage with the community.

"Although that can be extremely difficult in a county as large and

**Dr. Karen Garza**

congested as Fairfax County, we could not have found someone more ready and willing to do so than Dr. Garza. Our site visit last week to Lubbock, Texas, proved her ability to engage and positively transform an entire community," McElveen said.

Garza flew to Fairfax last Thursday to accept the appointment in person, and toured several schools on Friday, meeting with teachers, students and administrators.

"I am very humbled and excited to be selected by this board," she said. "It is truly an honor and a privilege to join such a renowned school system." Garza said she will be "responsive and accountable" to all FCPS stakeholders and will support efforts already underway to provide FCPS students a world-class education.

"As superintendent, I plan to be very visible. The best part of my day will be when I'm in schools to be with children and to better understand the needs of our schools," she said.

Prior to her role in Lubbock, Garza served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country. As chief academic officer, the district's second position to the superintendent, Garza was responsible for both instruction and facilities for more than 200,000 students.

—VICTORIA ROSS

# RESTON ASSOCIATION WANTS YOUR BUDGET IDEAS

The Reston Association Board of Directors is seeking input and suggestions from residents concerning the 2014-2015 budget. The board will adopt the budget in the fall of 2013.

Complete and send us a suggestion form by Friday, April 26, 2013 by e-mail to [RABudget@reston.org](mailto:RABudget@reston.org) or by mail to Reston Association, ATTN: RA Budget Suggestions, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20194.

To download a 2014-2015 suggestion form, go to [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org) and select "Inside RA" from the menu at the top of the page. From there, navigate to the "Budget" page and scroll down to "Important Documents."



## NOTICE OF HEARING

The Reston Association Board of Directors is considering adding residential real estate located at 11101 Chessington Place, Reston, Va., to the existing Reston Association property. A hearing to receive member input has been scheduled for ...

**Monday, June 10, 2013, 6 p.m.**  
**12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191**

For information call 703-435-6530 or e-mail [Member\\_Services@reston.org](mailto:Member_Services@reston.org).



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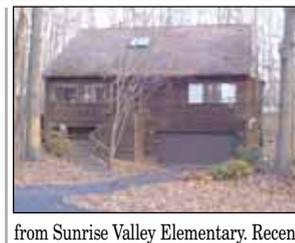
cared for home offers gorgeous hdwds, DR w/bay window & custom window treatments, sunken FR w/columns, built-ins & FP, sep study w/wall of built-ins, fin bsmnt w/full BA, BR recessed lighting & plenty of room to relax. Commuter's dream!



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Call Shawna Parde 703-581-7994 or e-mail [Shawna.parde@longandfoster.com](mailto:Shawna.parde@longandfoster.com)



**Reston \$1,339,900 Premier North Reston Development**

Stunning Gulick 5BR, 4.5BA, solarium, Langley pyramid, 7000+ SF on 3 finished levels, marble & hardwoods, gourmet kitchen, granite, SS, shaker cabinets, island, desk, 2-story foyer & FR walls of windows, FP, rear stairs, MBR suite, sitting rm, luxury MBA, W/O lower level, rec rm, media rm, exercise rm, den BR, BA, deck.



**Reston \$849,900 Designer Home**

5BR, 4.5BA on 3 finished levels. Slate front porch, 2 story foyer, gourmet kitchen, custom FP, hardwoods, walls of windows, library on main level, MBR suite w/luxury MBA, deck surrounded by trees, W/O lower level to stone patio & fenced yard.



Contact Marcy Thomas 703-917-2190 or [mathomas8@aol.com](mailto:mathomas8@aol.com)



**Reston \$689,900**

**Bright and Open**

Charming New England-style home located on private cul-de-sac features 3 finished levels of neutral décor. Cathedral ceilings, upgraded kitchen & master bath. Luxury master suite, hardwoods, finished basement w/rec rm, den & full bath.



Call Debbie Gill 703-346-1373 or e-mail [Debbie.Gill@longandfoster.com](mailto:Debbie.Gill@longandfoster.com)



**Great Falls \$1,375,000**

**Just Listed!**

Solidly-built custom Tudor on 5+ park-like acres. A showcase "smart" home w/4 finished levels, 5BR, 4.5BA, 3-car garage, sunroom, library, 2-story FR. Truly 1 of a kind!



Terry Atherton 703-861-0538 or e-mail [Terry.atherton@longandfoster.com](mailto:Terry.atherton@longandfoster.com)



**Herndon Amazing Home! \$449,900**

Completely remodeled & renovated including kitchen: island, granite, glass tile, baths, windows, doors, hardware, flooring, hardwoods, lighting, washer, dryer, ceramic tile, paint, HVAC, deck, shed & more! Backs to park.



**Sterling Absolutely Stunning! \$689,000**

4BR, 3.5BA, 4,274SF, dramatic floor plan w/updates galore! Kitchen inc: stainless, granite, island. Master suite w/huge, walk-in closet, double sinks, separate soaking tub/shower. Soaring ceilings, main level hdwds, office, 2-zoned. Huge deck & .38 acres.



Call Mary Miceli 703-362-2242 or e-mail [mary.miceli@longandfoster.com](mailto:mary.miceli@longandfoster.com)



**"I work hard for my agents so they can work hard for you!"**

- Anita Lasansky, Managing Broker

**1-800-296-2593**

[www.Reston-Herndon-Homes.com](http://www.Reston-Herndon-Homes.com)

