

Volunteers unpack and organize one Saturday's worth of food donations onto tables. Any items not packed into individual bags for hungry children are sent to the Embry Rucker Community Shelter.

## 'Helping Hungry Kids'

NEWS, PAGE 3

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY ETHAN McLEOD/THE CONNECTION

### Celebrating MLK

COMMUNITY, PAGE 4

### Reston's Best

NEWS, PAGE 5

### Sales Tax Error Throws off Revenue

NEWS, PAGE 3

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY  
COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC. TO AMEND  
ITS NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION AND RATEMAKING EFFICIENCY PLAN  
CASE NO. PUE-2013-00114**

On December 11, 2013, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("Columbia Gas" or the "Company"), filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting authority to amend its natural gas conservation and ratemaking efficiency plan ("Current CARE Plan") approved by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2012-00013. The Commission approved the Company's Current CARE Plan on April 27, 2012, for the three-year period January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2015. The Company's initial CARE Plan ("Initial CARE Plan") was approved by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2009-00051 for a three-year period that ended December 31, 2012.

Columbia Gas's Application requests authority to amend its Current CARE Plan to add a high-efficiency gas storage water heater measure and a high-efficiency tankless water heater measure to the Home Savings Program and to increase the approved customer rebate amounts for the existing high-efficiency natural gas furnace with an average fuel utilization rate efficiency ("AFUE")  $\geq$  90% measure and the attic insulation measure, both of which are measures currently included in the Home Savings Program (collectively, the "Home Savings Program Amendments"). The Application requests authority to implement the Home Savings Program Amendments effective April 30, 2014, for the remainder of the Current CARE Plan through December 31, 2015, and to incorporate the Home Savings Program Amendments into the previously approved Revenue Normalization Adjustment ("RNA"), CARE Program Adjustment ("CPA") and Program Performance Incentive ("PPI") mechanisms of the Current CARE Plan.

The Application states that year-over-year participation under the Current CARE Plan has declined compared to participation under the Initial CARE Plan and that during 2013, 31% fewer projects were completed as part of the Current CARE Plan as compared to 2012, the last year of the Initial CARE Plan. The Application states that the high-efficiency gas storage water heater and high-efficiency tankless water heater measures were part of the Company's Initial CARE Plan but that they were not included in the Current CARE Plan. Columbia Gas further states that the rebate amounts for the high-efficiency gas furnace (AFUE  $\geq$  90%) and attic insulation measures also were reduced in the Current CARE Plan compared to the Initial CARE Plan. The Company asserts that these changes from the Initial CARE Plan correlate to the reduced rate of customer participation experienced under the Current CARE Plan and that the changes to the Current CARE Plan proposed by the Application are being requested to expand available options for residential customers and increase customer participation.

Specifically, Columbia Gas proposes that the high-efficiency gas storage water heater measure include a customer rebate of \$50 per qualifying unit, which it states is equivalent to the rebate offered under the Initial CARE Plan. For the proposed high-efficiency tankless water heater measure, the Company requests the customer rebate be approved in the amount of \$200 per qualifying unit. Columbia Gas proposes to increase the high-efficiency gas furnace (AFUE  $\geq$  90%) measure from \$200 per qualifying unit to \$300 per qualifying unit and to increase the rebate for the attic insulation measure from \$0.18 per square foot to \$0.30 per square foot for qualifying insulation installed, both of which it states are consistent with the Initial CARE Plan rebate amount for these measures. The Company proposes to add \$25,000 each year to the Home Savings Program portion of the Education and Outreach Program budget for the remaining two years of the Current CARE Plan in order to increase customer awareness of the changes to the Home Savings Program and to increase participation. The Application indicates that this increase can be made within overall approved budget for the Current CARE Plan.

The Company states that the impact of the Home Savings Program Amendments is a slight decrease of \$6,000 from the Commission-approved budget and that the Company proposes to invest a total of \$5.7 million, inclusive of the Home Savings Program Amendments, over the period of the Current CARE Plan, to be recovered under the previously approved CPA tracking mechanism. The CPA, inclusive of the Home Savings Program Amendments, will cost the average residential customer using approximately 70 mcf approximately \$8 in 2014, the same annual cost as currently approved. The Company proposes no methodological changes to the approved RNA or CPA mechanisms contained in the Current CARE Plan.

Through the PPI, the Company recovers up to 15% of the net verified economic benefits created by the utility's approved CARE Plan as provided by § 56-602 F of the Code of Virginia. The Company proposes to modify the usage reduction targets set forth in the Company's approved PPI to incorporate the Home Savings Program Amendments. In addition, the Company states that it has modified the definition of actual cost of gas to include upstream pipeline capacity costs, consistent with the Commission's ruling in Case No. PUE-2012-00118, for the purposes of the gross cumulative energy benefits used to calculate the PPI. To reflect the same Commission ruling, Columbia Gas also has revised the associated acronym from WACCOG, weighted average commodity cost of gas, to WACOG, weighted average cost of gas, in the PPI calculation.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Application and supporting testimony and exhibits for the details of these proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application.

A copy of the Company's Application may be obtained at no charge by requesting a copy of the same from the Company's counsel, T. Borden Ellis, Senior Counsel, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836. The Application and related documents also shall be available for review in the Commission's Document Control Center, Tyler Building, First Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

On or before February 21, 2014, interested persons may file written comments on Columbia Gas's Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so, on or before February 21, 2014, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2013-00114.

On or before February 21, 2014, interested persons may request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company's Application by filing a request for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Requests for hearing must refer to Case No. PUE-2013-00114 and include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter.

A copy of any written comments, requests for hearing, and notices of participation shall simultaneously be sent to counsel for the Company: T. Borden Ellis, Senior Counsel, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

## COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY ANNE RYAN

### Outstanding Service

**At the Reston Lions Club Holiday party held on Dec. 19, at the Hidden Creek Country Club, five members of the club were presented Melvin Jones Fellow plaques for dedicated humanitarian services. The awards were by the Lions Clubs International Foundation. The recipients with Club President Don Leas, are, from left, Gerry Washburn, Bob Meissner, Leas, Jim Ryan, Mike Moseley and Jack Gazlay. Melvin Jones was one of the founders in 1917 of Lions Clubs International which now has 1.35 million members in 206 countries. The Reston Lions Club supports sight and hearing programs and more in the Reston and Herndon areas.**

### BULLETIN BOARD

*To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com) by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.*

#### THURSDAY/ JAN. 30

**Paper Making.** 10:30-11:30 a.m., Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Discover how to make your own paper using a variety of materials and learn how to use it in future craft projects. Child Reston Association member: \$7; Non-members: \$9. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org) or 703-476-9689.

#### ONGOING

**Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels** urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

**Herndon Senior Center** seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Class meets Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon and musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

**AWANA Club for Christian Children.** 7-8:30 p.m., at MLK Christian Church, 11400 North Shore Drive, Reston. Awana helps churches and parents work together to develop spiritually strong youth who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. 703-709-3641.

**Knitting Enthusiasts, Musicians Needed.** 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Herndon Senior Center. Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings also needed. 703-324-5406, TTY 711, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadult](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadult) or [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Habitat Heroes Project.** The fourth Saturday of each month. Join the Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests from aggressive plants and restoring them to their natural state. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A. will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water. To volunteer and find more information, contact [habrock@reston.org](mailto:habrock@reston.org) or 703-435-7986.

#### SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Furry Foxes.** 11 a.m.-Noon. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Find out what foxes eat, which of their wild cousins also live in Reston, and feel the furs of all these animals as well as go on a short hike. Reston Association members: \$7; Non-members: \$9. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org) or 703-476-9689.

**Useful Services Exchange Annual Potluck Dinner and Meeting.** 4:30-8 p.m. Unitarian-Universalist Church of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. A time-trading barter system to exchange services among Reston/Herndon residents. All current and prospective members are invited. No charge, beverages will be provided. To RSVP or get more information, call 703-435-6283.

#### SUNDAY/ JAN. 26

**Creatures of the Chesapeake Bay.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. or 3-4 p.m., Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Learn about bay ecology and how the way we treat water at home affects the water quality and wildlife found in the bay with a marine biologist. Reston Association members: \$8; Non-members: \$12. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org) or 703-476-9689.

#### MONDAY/ JAN. 27

**Choices for Sustainable Living.** 7-9 p.m., Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Join this seven session, facilitated discussion course to explore the meaning of sustainable living and the ties between lifestyle choices and their impact on the earth. Reston Association Members: \$30; Non-members: \$40. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org) or 703-476-9689.

## ‘Helping Hungry Kids’

Saturday food drives at Herndon and Reston grocery stores provide weekends meals for area students.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

Every Saturday leading up to Feb. 17, customers walking into the Fox Mill and North Point shopping center Giant grocery stores will be able to provide food for hungry elementary school children in Herndon and Reston.

The Helping Hungry Kids program kicked off its Stuff the Bus food collection program Jan. 18, at area grocery stores, complete with shopping carts and a stack of food ready to be purchased for generous customers. Volunteers at the front of the store handed out flyers to customers and asked them to help by purchasing \$11 bags filled with child-sized portions of items like macaroni and cheese, granola bars and sugar-free applesauce.

“A lot of the people who come here just take the bag and prepare it themselves,” said Colleen Cavitz, a Chantilly resident who has been volunteering each month for three years.

Co-founder Sandy Amato first began collecting monthly food donations in 2009 for area elementary school students on free and



Volunteers unload food packed into a Fastran bus at the end of the day.

PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

reduced lunch programs. There is a significant gap in food availability for those students on the weekends that Amato says the Helping Hungry Kids program seeks to fill. Giving Circle of Hope, the nonprofit that organizes the monthly food drives, distributes the food at the end of each week for children on free and reduced lunch programs.

The majority of the food, about 300 bags, goes to Dogwood Elementary School students, with an additional 25 to 50 going to students who attend Buzz Aldrin, Terraset, Clearview, Coates and Belvedere elementary schools. Larger items and boxes of food are donated to the Embury Rucker Community Shelter. “The community is so generous,” said Amato. “We get about eight grocery carts full every time we come out here to Fox Mill.”

The food is then transported to the Altum, Inc. building in Reston, the corporate business partner for the past five years for Giving Circle of Hope, where it is sorted into

bags.

From Jan. 18 to Feb. 17, Fairfax County provides transport for the donations through its Stuff the Bus program with Fastran buses in the parking lots of 13 grocery stores that collect each day’s donations. Helping Hungry Kids is one of the initiatives that Fairfax County helps, in addition to replenishing the supplies at area food banks.

Dave Dixon, who works for MV Transportation, has been driving the buses stuffed full of food donations for four years. “After Christmas, there’s a real drain on the supplies available for food banks,” said Dixon.

Dixon displayed the estimated figures collected during the 2012-2013 school year: 8,570 bags, totaled at \$51,420 in donations.

Amato noted that the collections have grown each year, and hopes that that trend will only continue to provide for the county’s hungry children: “Nobody thinks there are hungry kids in Fairfax County, but there really are.”

## Retail Worries

October numbers artificially inflated; holiday numbers could spell trouble.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

The partial government shutdown was more than an October surprise during the race for governor. Newly available statistics from the Virginia Department of Taxation show the month was also an unexpected boost to sales tax revenues across the commonwealth. Fairfax County, for example, recorded a 15.5 percent spike in sales tax revenue in October 2013 compared to October 2012. But state and local officials say that’s because several major department stores neglected to increase their sales tax rate to reflect the new regional tax for transportation when the new fiscal year began in July. So the October numbers represent the backlog of uncollected revenues.

Which retailers flubbed their taxes?

“That’s proprietary information, so we can’t say,” said Marcia Wilds, revenue and economic analysis coordinator with the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget. “They’re big.”

The revenue corrections came at a key time for local governments, a month that many expected to be particularly bleak. Many government workers and contractors were out of work in October, when local governments became concerned that spending habits might reflect a sense of uncertainty about the future. Now budget officials across Northern Virginia are worried about what kind of sales tax revenue they’ll collect from the holiday season.

“The sales tax will be back with holiday sales,” said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. “Over the year there will only a minor weakening.”

**BUDGET OFFICIALS** are not so sure. As local governments across the region prepare for the first round of budgeting next month, a sense of uncertainty looms over the revenue projections and spending priorities. Part of that is the unemployment rate, which remains at about 6 percent across Virginia. That means consumers may hold back on consumption based spending, which would mean lower revenues for local governments on retail sales and restaurant meals.

“If revenues continue to decline, it may be necessary to make up any additional

## Into the Budget Fray

Bulova highlights accomplishments, challenges in annual address.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Despite the lingering impact of an anemic economy, and the regional ripple effects of federal sequestration, Fairfax County residents will see some concrete signs of progress this year.

That message was delivered by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, who cast a mostly positive light on the county’s future during a media screening of her televised annual State of

the County address on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

In addition to the completion of Phase 1 of the Silver Line in Tysons, motorists can expect to see congestion eased through a number of state-funded transportation projects, including the new I-95 Express Lanes that will tie into the Beltway Express lanes at Edsall Road.

Residents can also look forward to the revitalization and redevelopment of older commercial and industrial areas throughout the county, including the \$250 million transformation of Springfield Mall into the

Springfield Town Center in the fall of 2014.

The newly-renovated mall will include the addition of roughly 700,000 square feet of retail, restaurants, a food court and a state-of-the-art movie theater. The 20-foot-tall brown numbers that indicated the mall’s six main entrances — a hallmark of the 1970s-era mall — will be replaced with one central grand entranceway.

Bulova also praised the Economic Development Authority and Visit Fairfax for boosting tourism and facilitating the selection of Fairfax County as the host of the 2015 World Police and Fire Games, the world’s second largest athletic competition after the summer Olympics. The event is

SEE BUDGET FRAY, PAGE 13

SEE SALES TAX, PAGE 10

Volunteers sort donations of toys at Southgate Community Center on Saturday.



PHOTOS BY  
ETHAN MCLEOD/  
THE CONNECTION

## Reston Residents March to Commemorate King's Legacy

Community joins together in weekend of music, fun, and community service.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

**R**eston resident Denver Lovett was part of the first March on Washington on Aug. 8, 1963, while he was a student at Howard University. He also attended the 20<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the event in Washington D.C.

But this past Sunday, Jan. 19, Lovett had a chance to spend the day marching with his Reston neighbors for a half-mile beginning at Lake Anne Village Center to commemorate the historic day.

"If you get a lot of individuals taking action and trying to change things rather than sitting around complaining about how bad things are, it can create a powerful movement for good," said Lovett.

Reston community members, led by the Rev. David North, marched together and sang "We Shall Not Be Moved" and "We Shall Overcome" as they made their way to the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation up the road. There the Voices of Inspiration Gospel Choir, a student gospel group from Southern Methodist University, sang songs of worship in a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy.

Throughout the weekend, the Reston community paid service to King through community service, speaking events and arts performances. The festivities began Saturday with a community service day that drew about 100 volunteers at Southgate Community Center. For four hours, participants collected toys in partnership with The Closet, hosted an arts and crafts station for children to create murals commemorating King, and cleaned up the community center's backyard.

At the Reston Community Center, the Reston Community Orchestra, led by Maestro Dingwall Fleary, performed songs both created by African American composers and dedicated to the civil rights movement.

"The great thing about this celebration over the



**Reston community members re-enact the March on Washington by singing songs and marching from Lake Anne to the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation.**

years has been how it becomes an event by and for the community," said Leila Gordon, executive director of the Reston Community Center.

A headliner for the weekend was Grammy award-winning a capella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock. The group played a sold-out concert at the community center at Hunters Woods and, as a collective, was the chosen speaker for the Monday keynote address and community lunch.

Through its weekend packed with programs, Reston showed its commitment to celebrating King's life and legacy by bringing a community of individuals together in acts of solidarity.

As North told the Sunday congregation of marchers: "One drop is small, but if you put all the drops together, you can create a mighty ocean."

What is the most important part of Reston's commemoration weekend for Dr. King's legacy to you?



**Colin Mills**

President of Reston Citizens Association

"Reston is a wonderfully diverse community and I'm really glad that we have events like this to celebrate the kind of diversity that we have here."



**Ed Robichaud**

Board Member for Reston Historic Trust

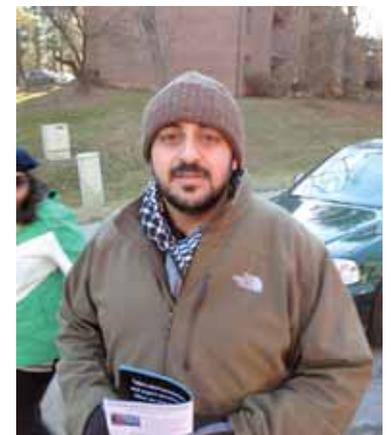
"This three-day event that we do every year is a great event. It combines music, community service, singing, and I think Dr. King would be proud of the whole thing"



**Joan Whaley**

Former Reston resident

"Only Reston would do something like this, marching half a mile up the road — we are the parade. I'm so blessed to be able to share this opportunity with friends of mine from Reston associations, and it's an opportunity that can't be missed"



**Sabri Hammad**

Sales Consultant

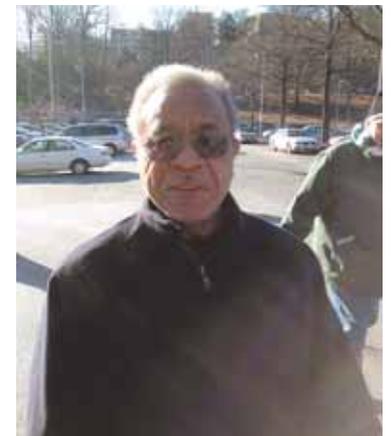
"Being a Muslim, I feel his march was as much for me as it was for the African-American community, and I feel it's applicable in other places. These same [song] lyrics can be used in Rwanda, Palestine, and really anywhere you may go."



**Michelle Moyer**

Board Member for Reston Community Center

"What this weekend means is that we cannot forget. Dr. North in his opening comments, said, 'Until all are free, none are free.' I think you see the mix of people here today and we all have to keep remembering that and not be complacent."



**Denver Lovett**

Reston resident

"People today may feel that they can't make a difference, but they don't take action. This is a way of taking action, doing what I can as an individual, and being an example to the young people to come out and show support."

# NEWS



PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

The Best of Reston honorees nominees all together.

## Cornerstones and GRCC Reveal Best of Reston Honorees

Reston's business and nonprofit leaders were among those gathered for 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Best of Reston Kickoff Reception.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

In a colorful, well-lit room of the Google Reston Town Center office, a shining bronze statue of 99-year-old Reston founder Bob Simon sat about 10 feet away from the man himself.

Simon's statue was a centerpiece of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Best of Reston Awards Kickoff, which introduced this year's eight honorees for the award. The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and the nonprofit Cornerstones co-host the awards each year to recognize exceptional community service in Reston community members.

The three businesses that received awards in the categories of Corporate Business Leader, Small Business Leader, and Civic/Community Leader, are Cooley, LLC, Brennan & Waite, P.L.C., and HomeAid Northern Virginia, respectively.

The five Individual Community Leader awardees are Carol Ann Bradley, Jerry Ferguson, Cate Fulkerson, Bonnie Haukness and Davida Luehrs.

Cornerstones CEO Kerri Wilson and Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Mark Ingrao spoke of how the event embodies Simon's original vision for Reston as a community, which Simon acknowledged later on.

"It's extraordinary, the level of commitment and understanding for what Reston is, and it's all here," said Simon.

Cornerstones operates the Embry Rucker Shelter and supports more than 20,000 in need with its programs each year. The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, meanwhile, advocates for the growth of Reston's business community in the Dulles Corridor.

"It truly is a unique partnership that we celebrate with a membership organization for businesses that truly lives the ideals of giving back, promoting all that is good, and

### AND THE WINNERS ARE...:

Corporate Business Leader – Cooley, LLC  
Small Business Leader – Brennan & Waite, P.L.C.  
Civic/Community Leader – HomeAid Northern Virginia

Individual Community Leaders – Carol Ann Bradley, Jerry Ferguson, Cate Fulkerson, Bonnie Haukness and Davida Luehrs

celebrating everyone in our community," said Wilson.

One by one, the honorees for this year's awards stepped up and exchanged hugs and handshakes with Wilson and Ingrao, who thanked the assortment of individuals and businesses for their contributions commitments to the community.

Best of Reston honorees from past years and local politicians were also in attendance, including Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel. "The focus of the Best of Reston awards on volunteerism are one-of-a-kind," said Hudgins. "It really is uniquely Reston."

The 2014 Best of Reston awards will be particularly special in that they will also mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reston, as well as Simon's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The awards will be the culmination of Cornerstones' year-long fundraising goal to raise \$1 million that will help to double the amount of affordable housing in Reston.

So far, Simon and his co-sponsors have raised 75 percent of that goal, and there are still about three months until the awards take place. Simon was particularly enthusiastic at the reception at the amount of money they had already managed to raise in under one year to help build more affordable housing in the community.

Among the local people that have donated more than \$10,000 a piece toward the campaign are Bill Bouie, Jim and Karen Cleveland, Joe Ritchey, and the Veatch family, in addition to eight other sponsors.

The 2014 Best of Reston Awards Gala will take place on April 10 at the Hyatt Regency Reston.

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**\$895,000**  
**Leesburg**  
5 bed, 5.5 baths,  
3 car gar, 4.07 acres



**\$705,000**  
**Broadlands**  
5 bed, 3.5 baths,  
2 car garage



**\$835,000**  
**Vienna**  
5 bed, 3.5 baths,  
2 car garage



**\$299,999**  
**Ashburn Village**  
3 bed, 2.5 baths,  
fenced backyard



**\$350,000**  
**Ashburn Farm**  
3 bed, 2 full & 2 half  
baths, 1 car garage



**\$385,000**  
**Potomac Lakes**  
3 bed, 2 full & 2 half  
baths, 2 car garage



**\$224,999**  
**Alexandria**  
1 bed, 1 bath,  
Condo with balcony



**\$329,950**  
**Manassas**  
2 bed, 2.5 baths,  
2 car garage

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## Extend Health Coverage in Virginia

General Assembly should not block coverage for as many as 400,000 uninsured.

Standing on what is essentially scorched earth, Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly have condemned hundreds of thousands of poor Virginians to living without health coverage even though it would be fully funded by Federal money for the next three years, and with Virginia paying 10 percent after five years.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has pledged to do everything he can to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and we encourage him to use every creative option available to make that happen. In Ohio, the governor found a legal way to accept the Medicaid funds despite objections from the General Assembly, for example.

Earlier this week, McAuliffe included an amendment to the FY2014 caboose budget bill authorizing the Governor to act in the event that the Medicaid Reform Innovation and Reform Commission (MIRC) fails to decide

whether or not to accept federal funding to cover up to 400,000 uninsured Virginians through Medicaid by the end of the current legislative session.

EDITORIAL

Business groups and chambers of commerce around Virginia, including the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, support accepting the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act. One persuasive factor for the business community: The expansion would create an estimated 30,000 jobs. Hospitals support expanding Medicaid which would offset many of the costs of caring for uninsured populations.

It isn't as if there is no health care cost for the uninsured now. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room or other clinics, where providers spread the cost of care around. This is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy, including for those of us who do have health insur-

ance. It means unvaccinated and/or sick people are going to work and going about their daily lives putting themselves and others at risk.

As of January 2014, in Virginia, Medicaid eligibility for adults without disability is limited to parents with incomes below 51 percent of poverty, or about \$11,900 a year for a family of four, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Adults without dependent children remain ineligible regardless of their income.

The General Assembly should not be able to block coverage for as many as 400,000 Virginians basically out of spite. The established excuse, that the Feds can't afford it and can't be counted on to pay the money, doesn't hold water in Virginia, which receives more Federal dollars per capita than any other state but Alaska. If legislators are so concerned about Federal ability to pay, you might expect to see them refusing transportation money, for example, or to turn the possible FBI headquarters away, or thousands of other ways that Federal dollars make their way into Virginia.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

## Master Plan for Transit Areas — Outgunned

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

It never looked like a fair fight. In the fall of 2009, when Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins assembled her Task Force of 25 or so to prepare a Comprehensive (Master) Plan for the Dulles rail corridor, it was clear the community was at a disadvantage. A handful of Reston volunteers faced a phalanx of hired gun slingers, men (100 percent men!) representing commercial developers and their lawyers. The gunslingers were pros doing their jobs, unified in a clear sense of purpose — to maximize profit. Most had worked “community” task force gigs before and knew the county staff advising the Task Force. None lived in Reston.

The civilians, volunteers representing community organizations including the Reston Citizens Association (RCA) and Reston Association (RA), had only a vague sense of mission — to plan development consistent with their Reston values. They would do the right thing for their community, but they were new to the game. The Task Force was to complete the Plan in one year. It took four years. It was approved by the

County Planning Commission just last week.

It goes to the Board of Supervisors for a likely rubber stamp public review on Jan. 28. The product bears the gunslingers' heavy imprint, but is not as terrible as I expected. A central issue, of course, was density. The final stage Plan calls for a lot of high density, especially closest to the stations. The densities, however, are generally appropriate to an urban core, which is what the rail corridor will be. Unfortunately, the type of development reflects the composition of the gunslingers team — that is, far too much commercial vs. residential development. And, it means greater traffic gridlock and less character.

A major difference from our Reston tradition may be the loss of excellence in design and environmental standards. While there is a lot of verbiage about the importance of quality design, the Plan is filled with platitudes and lacking in standards and an institutional mechanism to enforce them. This was made far worse by Ms. Hudgins' planning commissioner who struck the requirement for design review by the Reston DRB, and substituted developer

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 7

## Gov. McAuliffe Sets Stage

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

Each year the Governor of Virginia addresses a joint assembly of the House of Delegates and the State Senate in a speech not unlike the President's State of the Union address except that the Governor provides a “State of the Commonwealth” as well as his recommendations for legislative action. Last week I heard the 35<sup>th</sup> such speech since I have been a member of the House of Delegates. I think Gov. Terry McAuliffe made the best of any of the speeches I have heard over my career in the legislature.

He emphasized the need for all to work together; “... as we launch this new chapter in our history, let us resolve to show the partisans in Washington and across the nation that here in Virginia, in a Commonwealth that pioneered government by consensus, there is no challenge too great, no debate too intractable and no idea too ambitious that we cannot come together on common ground to build the future our families deserve.” The theme of his inaugural events was “common ground.”

He will put an emphasis on economic development. In his speech he announced two economic development projects that he has al-

ready concluded after just three days in office. “In today's modern economy, Virginia has to be smarter, more productive and far more aggressive than our sister states for new jobs and investment,” he said. From the tone of his speech it is obvious that no one will be accusing the new Governor of not being aggressive enough in economic development.

RICHMOND  
DIARY

His goals are clear, and he does not duck controversial issues. In his own words, “We should stop over-testing our students ... The General Assembly should not wait another year to pass the bipartisan Dream Act ... On Saturday I was proud to sign Executive Order Number One, which prohibits discrimination in state government on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity ... An open and welcoming Commonwealth requires a state government that trusts women to make their own health care decisions, and works to expand access to quality care ... I am eager to work with the coalition of Virginia leaders who agree that we need to strengthen our democracy by passing legislation putting Virginia on the path toward non-partisan redistricting.”

He was just as direct in his support for an expansion of Medicaid to help those “families (who) are

SEE PLUM, PAGE 7

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# Lovaas

FROM PAGE 6

preferred weasel-wording in its place. The LEED Gold Standard for environmental excellence in buildings was lowered to the modest silver standard in the final draft of the Plan.

Open space and recreational amenities serving all ages are a hallmark of Reston. They have been sharply de-emphasized as favored by the gunslingers. For example, the county Park Authority's own standards call for a minimum of 12 athletic fields to serve the 40,000 new residents in the corridor. The Plan going to the Board of Supervisors calls for only three. The spillover demand will simply go to other areas of Reston, where demand for fields already outstrips supply.

The Plan calls for new construction to occur simultaneous with the installation of essential supporting infrastructure — like

roads, schools, sidewalks. But, it is only a goal not a requirement. The lack of assurance that it will be done underlines another major failing of the Plan. There is, in fact, no entity responsible for implementing the Plan. It seems left to chance and the good will of developers.

In sum: Although the urban densities foreseen in the Transit Station Areas may be appropriate for our future urban core, the plan provides no assurance that said urban core will function. It is almost certain to lack the design excellence and overall quality Restonians expect. Still, I shudder to think how much worse the Plan would likely be but for the amazing efforts of community volunteers, especially the dozens working with RCA and Reston 2020 whose well-researched analytical inputs and dedication might have carried the day on a level playing field.

# Plum

FROM PAGE 6

just a major illness or accident away from financial ruin." As he pointed out, if we fail to exercise the option of federal funding for Medicaid, "we will forgo \$2.1 billion annually in federal funding over the next three years. That is more than \$5 million per day."

The Governor has extended an invitation for legislators of both parties to work with him. I look forward to working with him in moving Virginia forward.

To read the full text of the Governor's speech, go to <https://governor.virginia.gov/newsarticle?articleId=2572>

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## Broadway Night Comes to South Lakes High School

South Lakes students prepare for musical show.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

This past weekend students in the South Lakes High School were rehearsing and preparing for the ninth annual Broadway Night show at 7 p.m. Jan. 24-25 (weather depending) at the school's Little Theatre. Cast and crew were at the school making sure everything was ready for opening night. "This is my first year doing costume design, but my third year doing production for the play," said South Lakes senior Allison Scheler.

Audiences will enjoy the music of Broadway musicals from 1962 to the present in this year's show, "#Generations X, Y, Z" which will feature songs from the musicals "Matilda," "Edges," "Cinderella," "Anything Goes," "Rock of Ages" and more.

"This year we are highlighting the audience's perspectives on different generations," said Scheler. "I made sure the costumes were appropriate to date. It is fun to work with different costumes and different personalities."

"Many of the more recent Broadway shows are featuring music and artists from the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s, introducing our current generation to this music," said Rita Gigliotti, director of choirs at South Lakes High School. "While new to them, it is reminiscent for their parents and grandparents. To add to this twist, there will be a hashtag associated with each song in the review to incorporate today's social media hype for our 'Z' generation."

More than 120 students from South Lakes Pyramid schools are participating in this musical theatre intensive centered around teaching students who want to grow in voice, acting, dance, and technical theatre. South Lakes choral students assume leadership roles in running every aspect of the show: performing, directing, production,

technical theatre, publicity, costuming, choreography, all in a three-week period.

Alec Bright, a South Lakes senior is helping operate the sound booth. "Since it is a cabaret, it becomes more of a challenge to adapt to all the sound levels," said Bright.

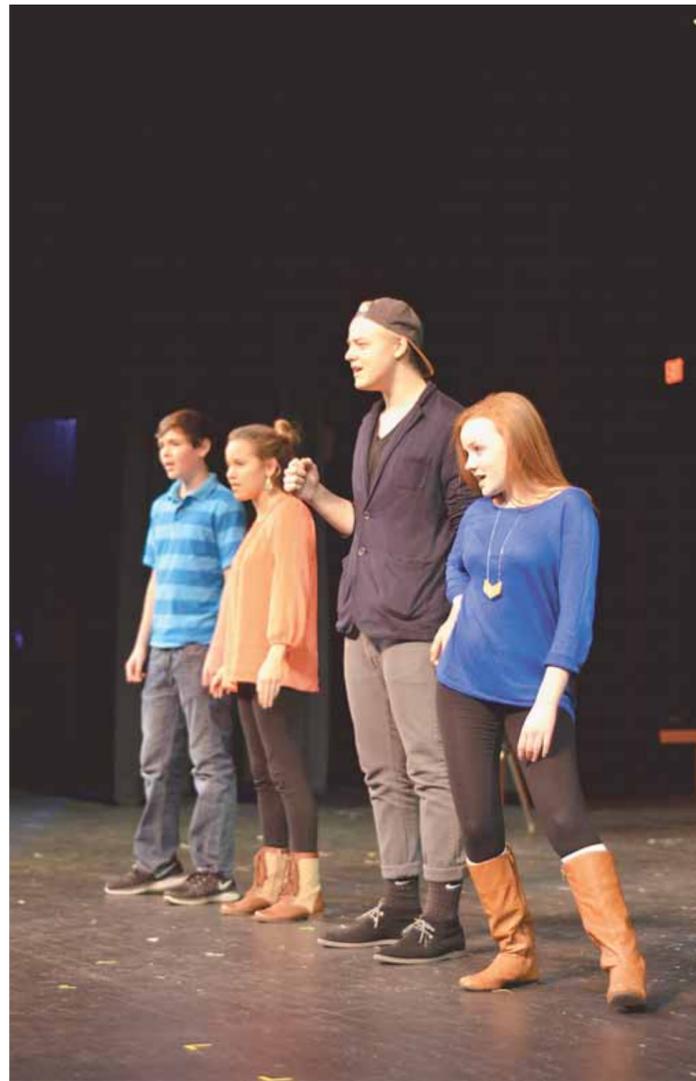
Brigid Doebrich, a sophomore, is also a member of the chorus group the "Do Re Migas" and will be representing a character of the millennial generation. "We can build our own characters, and that is real cool," said Doebrich.

Guidance and instruction is provided by Gigliotti and other performing arts professionals. Chorus alumni who have performed in past Broadway Night shows also come back annually to assist Gigliotti and her team. Among them are Catherine La Valley, now a student at George Mason University and Eric O'Brien, a student at New York University. "We have been helping the students so they feel comfortable being the character," said O'Brien. Also assisting in the production is Ryan Washabaugh, a former voice student of Gigliotti.

Tickets for the shows, which in past years have sold out, are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at [www.southlakeschorus.org](http://www.southlakeschorus.org) under the tab on top called tickets.

**South Lakes students representing the millennial generation rehearse on stage for the January musical.**  
From left: Oliver Gainer, Lyric Venable, Harrison De Wolfe and Brigid Doebrich.

PHOTOS BY  
RYAN DUNN/  
THE CONNECTION



Reston South Lakes student Alec Bright, a senior, is operating the sound booth for the annual Broadway Night show playing Jan. 24-25 at the school's Little Theatre.



South Lakes alumni Catherine La Valley and Eric O'Brien returned to help coach students rehearsing for the January Broadway Night show at South Lakes High.



South Lakes students representing the millennial generation rehearse on stage at the school's Little Theatre. From left: Lyric Venable, Harrison De Wolfe and Brigid Doebrich.

### CALENDAR

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

**TUESDAY / JAN. 21-SUNDAY/MARCH 2**  
**Something Blue.** ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Fine textile art is showcased in Something Blue by the Northern Virginia Quilters. 703-956-6590 or [www.artspaceherndon.org](http://www.artspaceherndon.org).

**WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22-WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19**  
**Art Explorers.** 10:30-11:30 a.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Three sessions allow for a more in-depth introduction to the key concepts and will provide some good homework suggestions to help start and develop a habit of sketching. \$200. 703-956-6590 or [www.artspaceherndon.org](http://www.artspaceherndon.org).

**FRIDAY/JAN. 24- SATURDAY/JAN. 25**  
**Les Miserables.** 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, this revolutionary musical is a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit.

**SATURDAY/JAN. 25**  
**"Sing a New Song" Concert.** 4 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1133 Reston Ave., Herndon. The concert explores the high church music of the Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran traditions. The concert is free, but a freewill donation will be collected (suggested: \$20/adult). A reception follows the concert. <http://gslca.org/ministries/worship/concert-series/>

**SUNDAY/JAN. 26**  
**Something Blue Opening Reception.** 4-6 p.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. This exhibit showcases fine textile art and is a sampling of blue varietals as used by Northern Virginia Quilters. 703-956-6590 or [www.artspaceherndon.org](http://www.artspaceherndon.org).

**SUNDAY/MARCH 9**  
**Rennie Harris' RHAW** 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. RHAW will showcase Dr. Rennie Harris' newest and brightest street dancers as they bring hip hop back to basics. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

**WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12**  
**Lúnasa.** 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This group of Irishmen continues its 20-year tradition of famed Celtic music. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston. [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

**SUNDAY/APRIL 6**  
**Mr. Vaudeville and Friends with Mark**



Join Reston Community Center for a revolutionary musical performance of Les Miserables starting on Jan. 24.

**Brutsché.** 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Buddy Silver, and alter-ego Mark Brutsché, returns to prove, once again, that nothing can take the place of live entertainment. \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston. [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

searching voices. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston. [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

**SUNDAY/APRIL 27**  
**Trout Fishing in America.** 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This Grammy Award nominated duo's infectious mix of folk/pop and family music is enriched by the diverse influences of reggae, Latin, blues, jazz and classical music. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 8**  
**SpeakeasyDC's Born This Way: Stories About Queer Culture in America.** 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. One of the region's premiere storytelling theatres presents an adults only afternoon of entertaining and thought-provoking true stories that showcase a range of perspectives from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

**WEDNESDAY/MAY 28**  
**Modern Moves, in partnership with Dance Place.** 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Three of D.C.'s most prominent choreographers - Daniel Burkholder, Daniel Phoenix Singh and Erica Rebolgar - come together to create an eclectic evening of thrilling modern dance. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

**ONGOING**  
**Free Comedy Showcase.** Thursdays 8:30 p.m., at Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Kalypso's hosts weekly comedy shows that feature some of the best national touring and local comedians in the area. Free of charge.  
**"Pinocchio."** March 8-30, 2014, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop Family Theatre presents a new adaptation of Carlo Collodi's classic story. It is adapted and directed by Paul Reisman and co-produced by Faction of Fools. [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**SATURDAY/MAY 31**  
**Raul Midón.** 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Blind since infancy, Midón uses his songwriting and musical talents to shatter stereotypes while establishing himself as one of music's most distinctive and

**League of Reston Artists Paints the Town.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at 1763 Fountain Drive, Reston. Approximately 30 works, in a variety of styles, from League of Reston Artists painters are currently being exhibited at the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org).

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## NEWS

# Sales Tax Error Artificially Inflates October Revenue

FROM PAGE 3

shortfalls with expenditure reductions," wrote Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young in a memorandum to City Council members this month.

The concerns are larger than retail sales. One of the potential problems on the horizon is transient occupancy tax revenues. In Alexandria, for example, the hotel occupancy rate fell from 76.1 percent in October 2012 to 72.4 percent in October 2013. In Arlington, hotel occupancy tax revenues fell 15 percent in November compared to the previous year and 18 percent in December compared to the previous year.

"Am I worried? Yes," acknowledged Arlington Budget Director Richard Stevenson. "But that's what budget directors do. We worry."

**EXPERTS WHO FOLLOW** local government revenues say jurisdictions are worried for two reasons. The first is the lack of con-

month	Alexandria	Arlington	Fairfax
July, 2012	\$2,095,566.17	\$3,209,203.92	\$13,721,734.05
July, 2013	\$2,131,996.31	\$3,035,747.37	\$13,659,947.01
difference	\$36,430.14	-\$173,456.55	-\$61,787.04
percent change	1.74%	-5.40%	-0.45%
August, 2012	\$2,140,318.83	\$3,319,659.04	\$14,475,843.20
August, 2013	\$2,026,859.07	\$3,037,107.38	\$13,530,731.80
difference	-\$113,459.76	-\$282,551.66	-\$945,111.40
percent change	-5.30%	-8.51%	-6.53%
September, 2012	\$2,183,674.38	\$3,285,824.25	\$13,581,370.46
September, 2013	\$2,103,012.61	\$3,067,027.71	\$13,521,411.87
difference	-\$80,661.77	-\$218,796.54	-\$59,958.59
percent change	-3.69%	-6.66%	-0.44%
October, 2012	\$2,027,158.90	\$3,178,335.39	\$13,614,131.71
October, 2013	\$2,208,159.20	\$3,661,773.43	\$15,728,025.92
difference	\$181,000.30	\$483,438.04	\$2,113,894.21
percent change	8.93%	15.21%	15.53%
November, 2012	\$2,078,264.35	\$3,301,839.75	\$14,234,067.26
November, 2013	\$2,062,527.46	\$3,218,338.10	\$13,908,035.89
difference	-\$15,736.89	-\$83,501.65	-\$326,031.37
percent change	-0.76%	-2.53%	-2.29%

tinuity on the part of the federal government. When the shutdown was happening, nobody knew how long it would last or

SEE SALES TAX, PAGE 11

Save the Date  
A Casino Night to Benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region

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Benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region

NEWS

# Sales Tax Error

FROM PAGE 10

when it would end. That led families to cut back their spending habits and cast a wary eye toward the future.

“That, obviously, is scary,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government at George Mason University. “It means for a family that you always have to leave something aside instead of using it at a local restaurant, store or other facility.”

A second reason for worry is that the uncertainty is far from over. The budget agreement reached between Congress and the president is good through September, leaving open the possibility of yet another battle about bankruptcy and insolvency. That leaves open a sense of doubt for long-term contracts involving everything from bridges and fighter planes to satellite and veterans hospitals.

“With the Federal Highway Trust Fund expected to be insolvent by next year,” said Shafroth, “a key partner in the regional Washington economy is becoming an uncertain one.”

**THE NEXT FEW** months will detail the extent of the economic damage created by sequester and shutdown. Will the numbers track with expectations? Or will they fall well below the budgets local leaders voted for last spring? That has local governments worried and prepared to make reductions if necessary. Then again, they also don’t want to make spending reduction that are unnecessary and potentially damaging.

“What you don’t want to do is make cuts that if we recover enough we didn’t need to make,” said Laura Triggs, finance director with the city of Alexandria. “But by law, if it continues to be low then yes I have to cut back on expenditures.”

Part of the problem is revenue growth not meeting expectations. Even if local governments see an increase in revenue from sales tax revenue, failure to meet expectations could spell trouble for balancing the books in the current fiscal year. And that means even more headaches for trying to predict the future in fiscal year 2015.

“Normally our sales tax is increasing at a larger extent than it is right now,” said Wilds.

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# Herndon Gymnast Bradley Knocks Off Rust

**Freshman wins all-around at Jan. 16 home meet.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**A**lexa Bradley isn't as good as she used to be and admits she probably never will be. But these days, the Herndon freshman is having fun with gymnastics and recently showed she still has plenty of ability.

Bradley, 14, won the all-around competition at a home meet on Jan. 16. The Hornets placed second as a team, finishing behind first-place Stone Bridge.

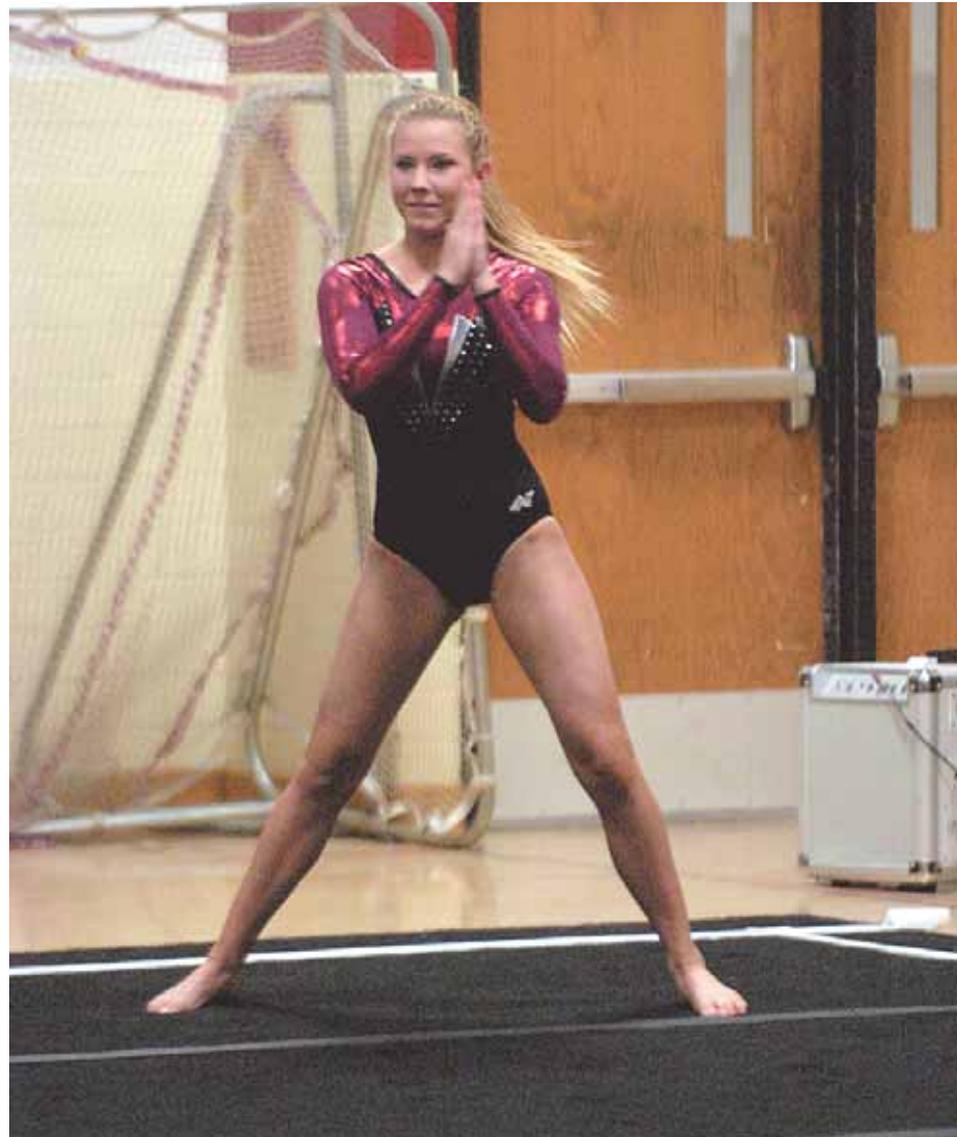
Bradley compiled a score of 34.9. She finished first on floor (9.2) and vault (9.1), and placed second on bars (8.4) and beam (8.2).

Bradley started competing at the club level when she was 3 years old and progressed to a level 8 gymnast at Dulles Gymnastics Academy in Sterling before stopping at age 13. Now a freshman, Bradley got back into gymnastics at the high school level and also competes for the Herndon cheerleading team.

"I did it for my mom," Bradley said about returning to gymnastics. "She really loves gymnastics and high school is not that big of a commitment. I wanted to make her happy."

Bradley said she used to train four hours a day, five times a week while competing at the club level. At the high school level, she trains for 90 minutes four times a week. While her skills aren't where they used to be, Bradley said being part of the Herndon gymnastics team brings more fun and less pressure.

"I was so rusty," Bradley said about her return to gymnastics. "It took me awhile to get back into it — I'm still getting back into it. I still haven't fully peaked. I never will



**Herndon freshman Alexa Bradley started competing in club gymnastics when she was 3 and stopped at 13. She now competes at the high school level.**

be as good as I used to be because I was training so much. ... It was really frustrating when I couldn't complete my routines. I would be like, why? I've done this so many times before. I can do it again. You've just got to stay confident. You've got to keep

pushing and trying again."

Herndon head coach Keith Naquin said Bradley has performed well in her return to gymnastics. "Part of it is mental in the sense that the club scene is extremely demanding and it's rigorous, and the high

school venue is more fun," Naquin said. "It's lighter and I think that's helped her transition easily back into it, where there's not as much stress. She's picked up the skills very easily. She's very coachable."

Herndon sophomore Shannon Kelly placed third in the all-around with a score of 34.05. She finished first on bars (8.7) and placed fourth on beam (8.15), fifth on vault (8.7) and fifth on floor (8.5).

"She's had hip surgery," Naquin said. "For her just to actually be here and compete at this level is respectable."

Stone Bridge won the team competition with a score of 133.2. Herndon finished second with a score of 122.55, followed by South County, Lake Braddock and Hayfield.

Herndon will compete in a meet at Marshall High School on Jan. 22, starting at 6:30 p.m. The Conference 5 meet will be held on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.

**"It was really frustrating when I couldn't complete my routines. I would be like, why? I've done this so many times before. I can do it again. You've just got to stay confident. You've got to keep pushing and trying again."**

— Herndon freshman  
Alexa Bradley

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### TJ Swim and Dive Beats South Lakes

The TJ boys continued their winning ways (211-94) at the first meet of the new year against South Lakes.

The boys' 200 medley relay — Luke Thorsell (Oak Hill), Joseph Doran (Springfield), Lucas Lin (Fairfax), Miles Oakley (Fairfax) — placed first, and TJ boys' 400 free relay teams took both first — Michael You (Alexandria), Emilio Sison (Annandale), Thorsell, Kyle Alexander (McLean)— and second place — Matthew Szilagyi

(Lansdowne), Jared Nirenberg (Springfield), Andrew Seliskar (McLean), Nathan Ouyang (Oak Hill). Seliskar (200 free, 100 fly), Thorsell (200 IM, 100 back), Oakley (50 free, 100 free), and Sison (500 free, 100 breast) were individual double winners as well.

The girls lost (171-144), but Carrie Heilbrun (Fairfax Station) (100 fly) and Sophie Bennett (Arlington) (500 free) finished first, continuing a strong season. Heilbrun and Bennett were also part of the winning girls 200 free relay with Charlie Lertlumprasert, Sophia Moses (Arlington).

In boys' diving, CJ Wilson (Alexandria) finished first, while

Callan Monette (Fairfax) took first and Gloria Chen second place for the girls.

### TJ Swim and Dive Competes in 5A Invitational

TJ swim and dive team members took part in the 5A Invitational in Richmond over the holidays. Carrie Heilbrun (Fairfax Station) finished first (200 IM, 100 back), and was part of the winning girls 400 free relay with Cynthia Zhuang, Sophia Moses (Arlington), and Sophie Bennett (Arlington). Miles Oakley (Fairfax) won 50 free.



**Herndon senior Deandre Thomas drives to the basket against Lake Braddock on Jan. 18. The Hornets defeated the Bruins 99-86, improving their record to 11-2.**

PHOTO BY  
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/  
THE CONNECTION

# Into the Budget Fray

FROM PAGE 3

expected to generate more than \$100 million in tourism revenue for the county.

The 30-minute State of the County video, 10 minutes longer than last year's production, highlights many county achievements in the past year — such as the county's low crime rate and a 26 percent reduction since 2007 in the number of people counted as homeless. It also features three of the county's new leaders: newly-elected Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, the county's first female sheriff; Police Chief Edwin Roessler and Karen Garza, the new superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.

In the video, Garza said one of her top priorities is "to listen and learn what our community expects of its schools."

"One of our big projects this year is that we enlisted the help of a broad-based community committee to develop the Portrait of a Graduate — which will detail what our community expects an FCPS student to know and be to do upon graduating from our system," Garza said.

Garza also addressed the ongoing challenge of funding a school system with a current enrollment of 184,600 students, making FCPS larger than the school systems of eight states and the District of Columbia.

"As you know, FCPS is facing some challenges as well," Garza said in the video. "We have grown by more than 15,000 students in the last five years and our required expenditures for items like employee benefits have continued to increase. At the same time, revenues have not increased enough to cover expenditures."

In fiscal year 2014, 53 percent of the county's general fund budget was transferred to Fairfax County Public Schools, a sum of roughly \$1.9 billion.

School officials recently unveiled a \$2.5 billion budget, asking for a 5.7 percent increase, or nearly \$98 million more in county funding. Under the proposed budget, class sizes will increase at all grade levels and about 730 staff positions will be cut.

After the screening, Bulova emphasized that while education continues to be the board's "highest priority" and the community's "greatest investment," there will likely be a significant gap between what school officials are asking for in their budget, and how much the board is prepared to give.

"The schools won't get everything they asked for," Bulova said. "The school board will have to roll up their sleeves and so will supervisors."

When asked how close the board is prepared to get to the 5.7 percent request, Bulova said that a 2 percent increase — or \$33 million — is a more realistic number.

In an effort to bridge that gap, supervisors have made state education funding the county's top legislative priority for this year's General Assembly ses-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova hosted a media screening of her annual State of the County address on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Residents can view the address on Channel 16 from 7:30 to 8 p.m., or on YouTube at <http://youtube/YzeaC3K-wiY>**

sion.

"This is our education year, our number one ask and priority from legislators is to get the full funding of \$33 million," Bulova said.

Although Fairfax County is not facing the "doomsday budgets" of the mid-1990s, a projected budget shortfall of \$25 million this fiscal year, coupled with the accelerating growth and financial needs of Fairfax County Public Schools will present the Board of Supervisors with choices and challenges.

"Once again, it will not be an easy budget year," Bulova said. "Actions or lack of action at the federal

level has impacted commercial and sales tax revenue, making it more difficult for the county to recover from the downturn."

Bulova said the county's advertised budget for fiscal year 2015 will be released for public comment next month. The county will host a number of public hearings, community forums and town meetings to give residents the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. In late April, the board officially adopts the budget.

"Every budget tells a story," Bulova said. "We'll

look for efficiencies and savings and opportunity for savings, but it won't be easy. The low-hanging fruit has already been picked."

In spite of the challenges, Bulova said she believes the board has consistently been able to strike a balance that has kept taxes affordable while delivering high quality services to residents.

"We remain committed to work with the community to maintain excellence in the face of our challenges," she said.

**"Recently, the department has established the chief's Council on Diversity Recruiting. This council provides the agency engagement with leaders from culturally diverse communities to assist us in developing innovative recruitment opportunities ... to mirror the communities we serve."**

— Police Chief Edwin Roessler

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# Friends Forever

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Since it had been more than a few months, today I summoned up the courage to Google my long-time friend and fellow stage IV lung cancer survivor, Suzanne. Suzanne and I had been years out of touch (for no real reason other than initiative and the geographic consideration that she lived in Barnstable, Ma. and I live in Burtonsville, Md.) and recently back in touch – due to our identical cancer diagnoses. I learned that she had succumbed to her disease back in October, 2013. We last had contact electronically back in the summer. She was extremely weak then, she said, too weak to talk, so e-mailing was best. In that e-mail, ultimately her last, she wrote that the most recent chemotherapy drug with which she was infused was no longer effective and that her oncologist had no other drugs left to recommend. Not that she said it in so many words, but at that point her prognosis was grim. She offered that her two boys were with her and from them she would gain great comfort. The news was very unsettling to me and I was afraid that this e-mail might be our last – and so it was.

Suzanne and I were never boyfriend/girlfriend, but from Elementary School through High School we were extremely close and confidants of the highest order (“thick as thieves,” to invoke a quote from the warden in the movie, “Shawshank Redemption” describing the close relationship between Tim Robbins – “Andy Dufresne” and “Red,” – Morgan Freeman). Our friendship was forged during those formative, pre-adolescent years and maintained on – and then off – until back on again a year or so ago, for nearly 50 years. The reason I hadn’t inquired sooner than today was because I was fearful of what I would find out. Typically her e-mails were fairly random and on the occasion when I would e-mail her, she would rarely respond in a timely manner. I tried not to worry about this last silent interval. Today my worst fears were realized.

Just as cancer survivors draw great strength from those of us still living with this terrible disease, so too are we weakened when one of us dies. Rather than feeling fortunate that I am still alive, I feel sadness that Suzanne is not. When one of us dies, we all die – a little bit, or at least, our resolve to persevere dies a little bit. I’ve always said that there is strength in our numbers, numbers that we cannot afford to lose. (Lung Cancer causes approximately 160,000 deaths a year, the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States.)

Certainly Suzanne’s death affects her family way more than it affects me. However, learning that she has died has given me pause to consider/reconsider how serious my health situation is. It’s ironic that Suzanne and I were friends for so many years and that ultimately we should be diagnosed with the same disease and given a similar prognosis. It seems only fitting that since we started together, we should finish together. I imagine I’ll see her soon enough. For the moment however, I hope it will be in my dreams – not that other place.

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

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-William Van Horne

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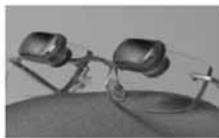
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PHOTO BY PATRICE WELKER

It takes a small army to prepare dinner, snacks, breakfast and a carry-out lunch for up to 40 people.

FUMC Opens Doors to Help Homeless During Winter Cold

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

Members of Floris United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Herndon have participated in programs assisting the area's homeless for years, mostly through food and clothing donations and by volunteering to serve meals at shelters and seasonal food pantries and kitchens. Last year a number of the congregation who have given their time to those efforts decided to see if FUMC would take their involvement to the next level by agreeing to literally open the church doors for one week as part of the annual Hypothermia Prevention and Response program coordinated by local non-profit FACETS. The response by FUMC leadership and worshipers alike was overwhelmingly positive.

"The group brought a well-thought out five-page proposal — almost like a business plan — to the church leadership," said Director of Serve Ministries Jake McGlothlin. "Even though this was a pretty big commitment, really something beyond what we have done in the past, everyone got right on board. And once we announced the plan to the entire FUMC community, volunteers were immediately stepping up. I've had a pretty easy time of it," McGlothlin laughed. More than 250 volunteers, aged 14 and older, are handling the many tasks associated with housing and hosting up to 40 clients each night.

Planning committees began meeting as long ago as March of last year, first just once a month, until they began meeting weekly in December in preparation for their turn as hosts during the week of Jan. 12-19. "We are just one of many area faith communities that take part in the FACETS program and house our needful neighbors," said McGlothlin, "but we wanted to put an even

more welcoming face on our efforts, so we've billed this as our 'Guest House' for these clients. We want them to really feel at home."

From 5:30 p.m. until 7 a.m., the fellowship hall is transformed into the sleeping quarters for the guests. Dinner, breakfast and snacks are served in the large main lobby of the church complex, and bagged lunches are offered as the guests depart for the day. Guests are also offered shower facilities, and there are numerous activities available for anyone so inclined to join in.

"Some folks just want to enjoy the peace of a quiet and safe place to rest out of the cold and pretty much keep to themselves," said Vicki Monroe, the food coordinator for the event and a long-time volunteer for homeless causes. "Others are very social and tell us how happy they are to have someone to just sit and talk with. There's been some lively conversation around here. I am really enjoying the personal interaction."

So does volunteer Jay Hilbert. In charge of general logistics and transportation, Hilbert said when he's not running from here to there it's been a great experience to serve the community face-to-face. "I'm also enjoying getting to know other church members that I might never have really met or had much interaction with."

Working with more than 30 area churches and faith communities, FACETS offers the Hypothermia Prevention Program each year starting in late November to give the homeless warm and safe accommodation and several nutritious meals during the cold winter months. Last year the organization served almost 250 clients through the program, one of five such programs operated in partnership with Fairfax County government. "We really wish there wasn't a need for these services," said McGlothlin, "but I am so proud that the FUMC community was ready and willing to say 'Be Our Guest' and then really make it happen."

# Award-Winning Connection Newspapers

More Reasons the Connection Newspapers are the Best-Read Community Papers

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**Jean Card**

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



**Laurence Foong**

### Win, Place, Show for Alexandria Gazette Packet

Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three top spots for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division.



**Craig Sterbutzel**

### First Place

❖ **Nicholas Horrock, Alexandria Gazette Packet:** In-depth or investigative reporting



**Nicholas Horrock**

### Second Place

❖ **Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet:** In-depth or investigative reporting • Guns From the South



**Montie Martin**

### Third Place

❖ **Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet:** In-depth or investigative reporting • Looking Behind the Numbers



**Michael Lee Pope**

### First Place Winners

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



**Nikki Cheshire**

❖ **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, Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet:** Informational Graphics



**Deb Cobb**

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing**



**Bonnie Hobbs**

❖ **Kenneth Lourie, Arlington**



**Kenneth Lourie**

Connection: Column Writing  
❖ **Alex McVeigh, Oak Hill/Herndon**  
Connection: Education Writing  
• The Human Element of Learning



**Alex McVeigh**

❖ **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

❖ **Victoria Ross, Springfield**  
Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting  
• Immigration



**Victoria Ross**

### Second Place Winners

❖ **Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette:** Page Design

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs, Fairfax**  
Connection: Public Safety Writing



**Louise Krafft**

❖ **Louise Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette:** Picture Story or Essay  
• Mount Vernon Graduation 2012

❖ **Louise Krafft, 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**

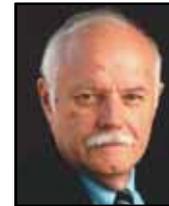
❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong, Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette:** Special Sections or Special Editions

• Insider's Guide



**Geovani Flores**

## LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION



**Kemal Kurspahic**

❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll, Geovani Flores, Great Falls**  
Connection: General Makeup



**Stuart Moll**



**Amna Rehmatulla**

### Third Place Winners

❖ **Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet:** Page Design

❖ **Laurence Foong, The Fairfax**  
Connection: Informational Graphics

❖ **Mary Kimm, Fairfax**  
Connection: Editorial Writing

❖ **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



**Chelsea Bryan**



**Mary Kimm**

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, Stuart Moll, Alexandria Gazette Packet:** General Makeup

❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong, 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.



**Jon Roetman**

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