

Reston's Beaver Gate

NEWS, PAGE 4

Reston Association's Patricia Greenberg and Environmental Resource Manager Claudia Thompson-Deahl by the beaver gate located at Glade Stream Valley in Reston. Beavers are one of Reston's most conspicuous residents.

Reston Master Plan Takes Shape

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Reston National Golf Stays the Course - for Now

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NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

Outlook: Reston Master Plan Takes Shape

Village Center updates, national golf course appeal mean big decisions.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Reston may see their ideas become resolutions on paper this year. Community leaders are saying residents can look forward to new village center plans, the beginnings of a new Lake Anne Village Center and a decision on whether Reston National Golf Course wins the appeal on residential zoning.

Northwestern Mutual and the owners of the Reston National Golf Course appealed the Fairfax County Planning and Zoning staff's decision that the course cannot be used for anything other than recreational open space. The county Government Center filled with hundreds of Rescue Reston's supporters at the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on Jan. 21 rebutted the appeal.

"Generally, the public view is that the golf course has to be maintained," said Reston Citizens Association President Sridhar Ganesan.

Many supporters stayed for nearly the entire six hour meeting to hear that the board wanted more information from the county's staff - including a certified document that stated what the Reston Master Plan does - that the area is off-limits to any development except recreational open space.

"Our members look forward to a positive outcome, and to being able to continue to enjoy the golf course as an integral part of our community," said Rescue Reston Vice President of Legal Affairs David Burns.

The BZA plans to announce its final decision on April 15.

For Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins - and the Reston unit of the Fairfax County Police force - this means a newly renovated office.

"The building, built during the time of my predecessor, Martha Pennino, has outlived its capacity for our police, the supervisor's office and the community," she said.

She said construction at the North County Government Center at 1801 Cameron Glen Drive will be done soon. While she did not mention a completion date, she hinted that it will be ready "early" in the year.

"Soon as we unpack the boxes, we look forward to inviting you to that Open House. Until then, we will keep packing," she said.

A HANDFUL OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS took place last year between county Planning and Zoning representatives and Reston residents to determine how Phase II of Reston's Master Plan - which focuses on all the village centers except Lake Anne - will look in the future. On Thursday, the

community will meet with the county representatives again - this time to be presented a working draft of the plan.

"The amount of time we're spending on it is much simpler than the first half of the master plan," said Hudgins. "We wanted to make sure there was comfort and guidance for the neighborhoods and the village centers."

The community will have the chance to have questions answered during the meeting as well as send comments to the county about the working draft until the second week in February.

Because the staff report for the planning commission needs to be submitted two weeks in advance of the meeting, the community will have only two weeks to send in their feedback about the working draft.

"We hope that we've had enough conversations that the changes won't be significant," said county Planning and Zoning representative Richard Lambert.

That draft, released in December, can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/reston/documents.htm>. All other updates on community meetings concerning the master plan can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/>.

Some have spoken out against how quickly the county hopes to bring Phase II of the master plan to life. However, Reston founder Robert Simon - the man who the community is named after - felt the opposite.

"The major factor in all of this is speed," said Simon at a community meeting in November. "Everything takes much longer than it used to. What you get now is an eight to 10 year gap, like with Lake Anne, for example."

The fate of Tall Oaks Village Center has been under a cloud of mystery after it was bought by Tall Oaks Development Company, LLC in December. In the past several months, nearly every business in the shopping center has vacated, leaving the area looking much like a ghost town. According to Lambert, the new owner submitted an all-residential plan to Reston Planning and Zoning Committee - which was denied.

"It was not in accordance with the plan, the definition of a village center," he said.

Hudgins said she encourages the new owner to bring their ideas to the community so concerned members can have input in the future of Tall Oaks.

"Every village center doesn't need to be the same, but there needs to be a sense of retail, open space," she said. "Rather than saying 'we're going to build something,' let's bring those ideas out to the community."

LAKE ANNE VILLAGE CENTER is going through its own changes with Lake Anne Redevelopment Partners, LLC to breathe life



Cathy Hudgins

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Lake Anne Village Center may see construction beginning this year.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

Construction at the North County Government Center at 1801 Cameron Glen Drive will take place soon. The date is currently undetermined.

into the community's original village center. According to the developer's website, Phase I of construction, which includes the redevelopment of Crescent Apartments and creation of affordable housing, is scheduled to begin this summer.

The five phases of the village center's construction are expected to last up to 12 years.

Ganesan said that while a decision to build Reston Community Center's indoor

SEE VILLAGE, PAGE 3

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Wiehle-Reston East is the new bus drop off for Fairfax and Loudoun connector buses that used to travel to Orange Line stations. Also, the station garage has a 200-space bike room.

Where Are Silver Line Riders Going?

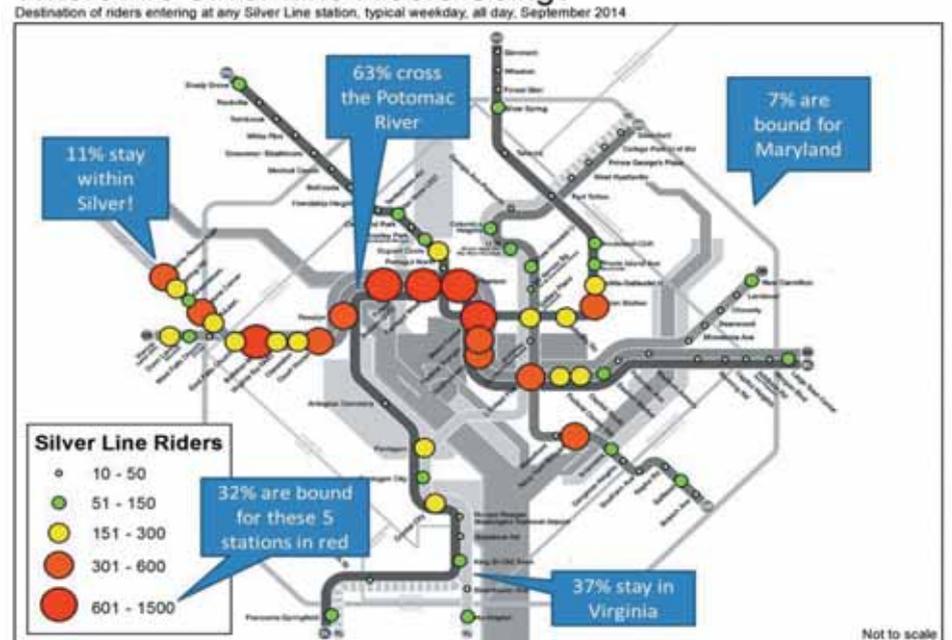


Image showing where Silver Line station riders go, dated September 2014.

Area's Silver Lining Reston, Herndon area residents mindful of transportation changes.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

On July 26, 2014, Phase 1 of the Silver Line opened. Metro General Manager Richard Sarles introduced a list of speakers at the dedication ceremony in a tent at the new Wiehle-Reston East station in Reston. At a cost of \$46,943 per foot, and \$150 million over budget, the Silver Line rolled down 11.7 miles of subway track. And while the Northern Virginia public has not expressed buyer's remorse for the most expensive transportation project in the Washington region's history, there have been some critiques.

"The Silver Line is more convenient, but not without its drawbacks," said Herndon resident Richard Corcoran who commutes to Washington, D.C. for work. "The Reston parking deck is poorly labeled. If you take the wrong stairway, you will not find your car. Also the bus pickup in the garage is atrocious."

A common complaint has been traffic bottle-necking at the entrances of the Wiehle-Reston East station at traffic rush hour during the weekdays. The Wiehle Avenue garage has seven parking levels, above and below ground. The Metro garage built by Fairfax County has several levels of mostly reserved parking.

ABOUT 40 PERCENT of Fairfax Connector bus routes changed when the Silver Line opened July 26. Buses that took commuters to the Orange Line at West Falls Church were redirected to serve the new rail line. In Reston, it seems the Silver Line has greater traffic with daily commuters and tourists. "Many clients coming in from Ronald Reagan Airport use the Blue and Silver Line," said Kareem Khodary, an employee at Hyatt Regency Reston. "It has been popular for visitors who have been sightseeing, we get many guests who go on business trips and use the Silver Line."

For employees at locations including the Reston Town Center and Lake Anne Plaza, there has not been an increase in Silver Line use. "Some customers have mentioned they traveled on the Silver Line to our staff," said Liz Gardner, resident of Reston and manager of the shop Appalachian Spring located at Market Street in Reston Town Center. Gardner uses the Silver Line about twice a month. "I think the upcoming connection to Dulles Airport will be amazing."

In November 2014, ridership at the Tysons Corner Station doubled on Black Friday.

The station facilitated 10,800 riders entering or exiting over the course of the day, double its normal weekday volume of around 5,500. In Herndon, residents and councilmembers continue to ready the area for Phase 2 of the Silver Line which has been set to open in 2018.

THE SECOND PHASE of the Silver Line

is set to include six stops, including one at Dulles International Airport.

"Phase 1 has done a lot to increase interest and awareness in the Town of Herndon as a place to live and locate businesses," said Grace H. Wolf, a resident of the Town of Herndon and member of the Town Council. "I think that more folks are aware of how easy it is to commute to and from Reston and Herndon now that the Silver Line is open, even though our stop is not yet built. I also see a lot more interest from developers and corporate entities in our community because Phase II is right around the corner."

Wolf has ridden the Silver Line twice, once on the July inaugural ride and another time to visit Tysons.

For now, many residents in Reston and Herndon hope the ongoing Silver Line project will be able to service the existing business and residential neighborhoods, and provide connectivity.

Village Centers Reimagined

FROM PAGE 2

recreation center is not in the immediate future, the cost continues to concern him.

"While the projected expenses are \$8.8 million, about \$6.1 million is expected to come from the Small Tax District number five (Reston), so effectively, we keep funding the operations of RCC, which operates at a significant deficit every year," he wrote in an email.

He noted that Fairfax County Park Authority funds recreation centers in other communities and hopes they can fund a significant portion of RCC's proposed center.

Ken Kneueven, Reston Association president, said the organization, which represents the community's citizens, plans to continue to fight for the best interest for the residents. This includes sustainability in neighborhoods and the new vil-

lage centers. "We want to make sure any new developments are aligned to our sustainability principles," he said.

However, he noted that any changes, whether a hindrance of growth, can be met with hesitance from the community.

"There's a lot of trepidation in our community that sees this growth," he said.

Another area of growth he hopes to see is with transportation: 2014 brought the Silver Line Metro to the community, but he wants to see public transportation better serve Reston residents - not just those coming in from D.C. More specifically, he wants to make sure residents have better access to the Metro and the village centers.

"We're going to have to make sure any redevelopment that takes place is in alignment with our guiding principles," he said.



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

The future of Tall Oaks and most of the other village centers will be decided with Phase II of the Reston Master Plan.



Reston Association's Larry Butler and Environmental Resource Manager Claudia Thompson-Deahl answer questions and chat after the Jan. 21 meeting at Reston Association headquarters to discuss a proposed fence installation that will surround the beaver wetland behind Leatherwood Drive and Hunting Horn Lane.



A map of the proposed changes for the beaver fence near Glade Stream Valley in Reston. The site is located between Glade Drive and Lawyers Road.

Reston's Beaver Gate

Reston Association seeks to address Reston's busy beavers.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

The Glade Stream Valley in Reston has been home to beavers for over 25 years. Reston Association's environmental resource manager, Claudia Thompson-Deahl said beavers originally entered the stream system from the Twin Branches end, probably traveling up from the Potomac River via Difficult Run. Beavers, an industrious mammal once native to Virginia were almost eradicated soon after European colonization. However, the Virginia Game Commission reintroduced them when they began a reintroduction program for beavers between 1932 and 1938.

Beavers have no awareness of human property and conflicts may occur. Reston Association and Reston residents are interested in helping make sure landowners and policymakers consider ecological benefits as well as property damage when developing beaver control policies. A wetland's fencing meeting was held the evening of Jan. 21 to discuss the proposed fence installation that will surround the beaver wetland behind Leatherwood Drive and Hunting Horn Lane. The meeting was open to the public, and included a review of the history and current state of beaver habitation in Reston. "We really wanted to hear from the public who live in the area," said Larry Butler, Senior Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources.

TO PROTECT the small wetland space where some beavers dwell in Reston, a fence and gate was set up by the Reston Association's (RA) former manager of construction and repair, Dan Warfield, designed to keep the beavers in the management area. With Warfield's gate, water can go through, but beavers cannot. The gate was featured on the television show "Animal Planet" for its innovation as part of the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat series. However, time has weath-



A chewed off trunk of a tree is evidence a beaver was in this area of Reston. The Glade Stream Valley in Reston has been home to beavers for over 25 years.

PHOTOS BY
RYAN DUNN/
THE CONNECTION

ered down and damaged the current fence. "The existing fence is in bad shape and will need a lot of replacement," said Thompson-Deahl.

Reston is a certified Wildlife Habitat Community, and many residents take pride in the fact that despite the municipality's size

and population, there are many green, nature friendly parts of Reston. "Beavers provided a really good habitat, they help manage the stream and allow diverse species to come into our area," said Lucinda Shannon, who occupies the three-year Hunters Woods/Dogwood seat on the Reston Asso-

ciation Board of Directors. For many residents, the area of Glade Stream Valley remains a special place. "When we first moved here in 1984, I let my children walk down on the trails to Twin Branches, they called it a paradise," said Reston resident Julie Barcus.

Beavers are one of Reston's most conspicuous residents. While they create wetland habitat for many other species of wildlife to enjoy, at times their creative engineering may cause conflicts with other land users. The flooding of pathways and damage to trees and docks are some issues resulting from beaver habitation. "This area is about nature, and nature is always changing," said Thompson-Deahl.

To build a dam, beavers cut small trees or use branches from larger trees. The cuttings are then dragged or floated to the dam site, where they are anchored to the bottom and to each other with stones and mud. The dam is added to until the size of the pond meets the needs of the beaver. The dams are not waterproof and require constant attention. High storm waters will frequently carry away large portions of a dam, but the beavers are quick to repair the damage. In addition to the pond, a series of canals may be constructed to allow safe travel to distant sources of food or to connect ponds together. Willow trees have been planted along the stream bank for beaver consumption.

STATE REGULATIONS control the final disposition of trapped beavers and opportunities for relocation may be limited. Reston Association will provide information, advice, consultation and referrals if needed. However, RA cannot provide fencing for each individual homeowner's property. For help in resolving conflicts with beavers or other wildlife, contact RA at 703-435-6547. "My impression is that a lot of people like having beavers in the area, and understand the complications of managing them," said Larry Butler.



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GRASTEK is a prescription medicine used for sublingual (under the tongue) immunotherapy to treat Timothy and related grass pollen allergies that can cause sneezing, runny or itchy nose, stuffy or congested nose, or itchy and watery eyes. GRASTEK may be prescribed for persons 5 through 65 years of age who are allergic to grass pollen.

GRASTEK is taken for about 12 weeks before grass pollen season and throughout grass pollen season. GRASTEK may also be taken daily for 3 years to provide a sustained effect for a fourth year in which you do not have to take GRASTEK.

GRASTEK is NOT a medication that gives immediate relief for symptoms of grass allergy.

Important Safety Information about GRASTEK

- GRASTEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Stop taking GRASTEK and get immediate medical treatment right away if you or your child has any of the following symptoms after taking GRASTEK: trouble breathing; throat tightness or swelling; trouble swallowing or speaking; dizziness or fainting; rapid or weak heartbeat; severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea; severe flushing or itching of the skin.
- Do not take GRASTEK if you or your child has severe unstable, or uncontrolled asthma; had a severe allergic reaction in the past that included trouble breathing, dizziness or fainting, or rapid or weak heartbeat; had difficulty with breathing due to swelling of the throat or upper airway after using any sublingual immunotherapy before; has ever been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis or is allergic to any of the inactive ingredients contained in GRASTEK.
- For home use of GRASTEK, your doctor will prescribe epinephrine if you or your child has a severe allergic reaction after taking GRASTEK. Talk to your doctor or read the epinephrine patient information.
- The first dose of GRASTEK must be taken in the doctor's office. After taking the first dose, you or your child will be watched for at least 30 minutes by a healthcare professional for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.
- Children should be given each tablet of GRASTEK by an adult.
- You should tell your doctor about any medicines you or your child take.
- Stop GRASTEK and contact your doctor if you or your child has any of the following after taking GRASTEK: Any type of a serious allergic reaction; heartburn, difficulty swallowing or pain with swallowing, or chest pain that does not go away or worsens; any mouth surgery procedures (such as tooth removal), develop any mouth infections, ulcers or cuts in the mouth or throat.
- The most commonly reported side effects were itching of the mouth, lips, or tongue, swelling under the tongue, or throat irritation. These side effects, by themselves, were not dangerous or life-threatening.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please read the Brief Summary on the following page for more detailed information.

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Brief Summary



GRASTEK®

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Carefully read the Medication Guide before you or your child start taking GRASTEK and each time you get a refill. This Brief Summary does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if there is something you do not understand or you want to learn more about GRASTEK.

What is the most important information I should know about GRASTEK?

GRASTEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Stop taking GRASTEK and get medical treatment right away if you or your child has any of the following symptoms after taking GRASTEK:

- Trouble breathing
- Throat tightness or swelling
- Trouble swallowing or speaking
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin

For home administration of GRASTEK, your doctor will prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine, a medicine you can inject if you or your child has a severe allergic reaction after taking GRASTEK. Your doctor will train and instruct you on the proper use of auto-injectable epinephrine. Talk to your doctor or read the epinephrine patient information if you have any questions about the use of auto-injectable epinephrine.

What is GRASTEK?

GRASTEK is a prescription medicine used for sublingual (under the tongue) immunotherapy to treat Timothy and related grass pollen allergies that can cause sneezing, runny or itchy nose, stuffy or congested nose, or itchy and watery eyes. GRASTEK may be prescribed for persons 5 through 65 years of age who are allergic to grass pollen.

GRASTEK is taken for about 12 weeks before grass pollen season and throughout grass pollen season. GRASTEK may also be taken daily for 3 years to provide a sustained effect for a fourth year in which you do not have to take GRASTEK. GRASTEK is NOT a medication that gives immediate relief for symptoms of grass allergy.

Who should not take GRASTEK?

You or your child should not take GRASTEK if:

- You or your child has severe, unstable or uncontrolled asthma
- You or your child had a severe allergic reaction in the past that included any of these symptoms:
 - o Trouble breathing
 - o Dizziness or fainting
 - o Rapid or weak heartbeat
- You or your child has ever had difficulty with breathing due to swelling of the throat or upper airway after using any sublingual immunotherapy before.
- You or your child has ever been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis.
- You or your child is allergic to any of the inactive ingredients contained in GRASTEK. The inactive ingredients contained in GRASTEK are: gelatin, mannitol and sodium hydroxide.

What should I tell my doctor before taking GRASTEK?

Your doctor may decide that GRASTEK is not the best treatment if:

- You or your child has asthma, depending on how severe it is.
- You or your child suffers from lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- You or your child suffers from heart disease such as coronary artery disease, an irregular heart rhythm, or you have hypertension that is not well controlled.
- You or your daughter is pregnant, plans to become pregnant during the time you will be taking GRASTEK, or is breast-feeding.
- You or your child is unable or unwilling to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to treat a severe allergic reaction to GRASTEK.
- You or your child is taking certain medicines that enhance the likelihood of a severe reaction, or interfere with the treatment of a severe reaction. These medicines include:
 - o beta blockers and alpha-blockers (prescribed for high blood pressure)
 - o cardiac glycosides (prescribed for heart failure or problems with heart rhythm)
 - o diuretics (prescribed for heart conditions and high blood pressure)
 - o ergot alkaloids (prescribed for migraine headache)
 - o monoamine oxidase inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants (prescribed for depression)
 - o thyroid hormone (prescribed for low thyroid activity).

You should tell your doctor if you or your child is taking or has recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription and herbal supplements. Keep a list of them and show it to your doctor and pharmacist each time you get a new supply of GRASTEK. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking GRASTEK.

Are there any reasons to stop taking GRASTEK?

Stop GRASTEK and contact your doctor if you or your child has any of the following after taking GRASTEK:

- Any type of a serious allergic reaction
- Throat tightness that worsens or swelling of the tongue or throat that causes trouble speaking, breathing or swallowing
- Asthma or any other breathing condition that gets worse
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin
- Heartburn, difficulty swallowing, pain with swallowing, or chest pain that does not go away or worsens

Also, stop taking GRASTEK following: mouth surgery procedures (such as tooth removal), or if you develop any mouth infections, ulcers or cuts in the mouth or throat.

How should I take GRASTEK?

Take GRASTEK exactly as your doctor tells you. GRASTEK is a prescription medicine that is placed under the tongue.

- Take the tablet from the blister package after carefully removing the foil with dry hands.
- Place the tablet immediately under the tongue. Allow it to remain there until completely dissolved. Do not swallow for at least 1 minute.
- Do not take GRASTEK with food or beverage. Food and beverage should not be taken for the following 5 minutes.
- Wash hands after taking the tablet.

Take the first tablet of GRASTEK in your doctor's office. After taking the first tablet, you or your child will be watched for at least 30 minutes for

symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.

If you tolerate the first dose of GRASTEK, you or your child will continue GRASTEK therapy at home by taking one tablet every day. Children should be given each tablet of GRASTEK by an adult who will watch for any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.

Take GRASTEK as prescribed by your doctor until the end of the treatment course. If you forget to take GRASTEK, do not take a double dose. Take the next dose at your normal scheduled time the next day. If you miss more than one dose of GRASTEK, contact your healthcare provider before restarting.

What are the possible side effects of GRASTEK?

In children and adults, the most commonly reported side effects were itching of the mouth, lips, or tongue, swelling under the tongue, or throat irritation. These side effects, by themselves, were not dangerous or life-threatening.

GRASTEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Symptoms of allergic reactions to GRASTEK include:

- Trouble breathing
- Throat tightness or swelling
- Trouble swallowing or speaking
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin

For additional information on the possible side effects of GRASTEK, talk with your doctor or pharmacist. You may report side effects to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about GRASTEK. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about GRASTEK that was written for healthcare professionals. For more information go to www.grastek.com or call toll-free at 1-800-622-4477.

The Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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For more detailed information, please read the Prescribing Information.

usmg-mk7243-sb-1404r000
Revised: 04/2014

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RESP-1132773-0017 11/14



COMMENTARY

Reinvigorating Virginia's Economy

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

Virginia is well on its way to economic recovery for many families, but working families across the state are telling me and other legislators that they feel like the recession never ended. Even in Northern Virginia, home to some of the wealthiest localities in the country, too many families struggle to earn enough to pay for basic necessities despite having full-time jobs.

At the same time that households are struggling, Virginia's economy is growing at a snail's pace, according to studies by the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. Job growth has not kept up with the number of workers who want jobs, and state revenues have fallen as a result. Virginia needs families who earn good wages, who spend their earnings in the local economy to buy fuel, food, clothes, and other necessities, and who in doing so, help jumpstart our economy. But when wages stagnate, the economy stalls, and that hurts all of us.

Fortunately, we have proven policy solutions to help strengthen our working families. We can make our state's Earned Income Credit (EIC) refundable and increase the minimum wage. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues in the General Assembly have chosen to leave these income boosting solutions on the table. That's unfortunate and short-sighted.

The Earned Income Credit is a targeted tax credit that middle class and low-income families can claim at tax time to reduce what they owe in state income tax. It also promotes work because you have to be

working in order to claim it, and the credit is structured to reward working more hours.

As it stands now, if the value of the credit is greater than what you owe in state income tax, you're not able to get the difference in a refund. But if the EIC were refundable, working families would get back some of their wages that they paid in sales taxes in one lump sum to pay for a car repair or for the child care they need to go to work. Nineteen states provide for some amount of refund.

While the EIC provides a bump in income once a year, raising the state minimum wage will increase earnings for low-wage workers in each paycheck. If Virginia increases the minimum wage to just over \$10 by 2017, close to 700,000 workers throughout the state would see an increase in their wages. Out of this group, the vast majority are 20 or older, and close to 300,000 children have at least one parent who will get a raise. Clearly, increasing the minimum wage predominantly helps working adults, not just teenagers, and it will help many parents who rely on these wages to care for children. More money to the working poor generates economic activity for small businesses.

Making Virginia's Earned Income Credit refundable and increasing the minimum wage should be part of an effective, long-term strategy to strengthen our families and the economy. I have introduced two bills to accomplish this purpose. I hope local business groups will drop their opposition in order for the bills to pass. These bills should not be partisan. They will benefit all Virginians and Virginia businesses.



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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 18.



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Reston National Golf Stays the Course - for Now

Appeal decision to be announced April 15.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Julie Bitzer moved to a home near the Reston National Golf Course so she can indulge in her favorite past time as often as she likes.

"I'm a golfer," she said. "I was ecstatic I could live at and see the golf course and the open space."

With a home that faces the expansive greens of the 18-hole course and home were at risk when RN Golf - owned by Northwestern Mutual - appealed the Fairfax County Planning and Zoning staff's decision that the course could not be converted to a residential area.

She was not the only one to be concerned by the appeal. The county's Government Center auditorium was packed with a spill out



The county Board of Zoning Appeals will make a decision about the case on April 15.

into the lobby with area residents sporting brilliant yellow shirts exclaiming "Support Open Space: Today, Tomorrow, Forever" for the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on Jan. 21.

THE BOARD'S DECISION at the end of the nearly six hour meeting was to hold another meeting April 15 to allow the county P&Z staff to prepare a packet with more information about the area's official zoning. "Rescue Reston is optimistic that after the BZA has fully considered the record presented at today's hearing it will uphold the decision of the Zoning Administrator to maintain the Reston National Golf Course as open space," wrote Rescue Reston Vice President of Legal Affairs David Burns in a statement after the meeting. "We thank the supporters who attended the hearing to help present the community's views as well as over 5,300 petitioners. We also thank the Reston Association for fighting on behalf of its members for open space."

Rescue Reston is an organization

that is dedicated to preserving open space in the community - and that runners or walkers - even those who live by the golf course - traversing the course are "trespassing."

"The plan is a guide," he said. "The plan is not handcuffs. Even in the (Planned Residential Community), the plan is a guide." He also noted that if the appeal was granted, any new developer's plans will be subject to county approval. "We're here to confirm our property rights - we, the owner," he said. "That's all." John McBride, an attorney representing Reston Association, explained the unusual nature of Reston's Master Plan - a plan created through Robert Simon's New Town dream for a planned community. That first community was built without many certified maps and documents, McBride noted. "This is a planned community regulatory scheme, unusual of other areas in Fairfax County," he said.

He said the idea that the golf course is open to all is false and that runners or walkers - even those who live by the golf course - traversing the course are "trespassing."

"The plan is a guide," he said. "The plan is not handcuffs. Even in the (Planned Residential Community), the plan is a guide."

He also noted that if the appeal was granted, any new developer's plans will be subject to county approval.

"We're here to confirm our property rights - we, the owner," he said. "That's all."

John McBride, an attorney representing Reston Association, explained the unusual nature of Reston's Master Plan - a plan created through Robert Simon's New Town dream for a planned community. That first community was built without many certified maps and documents, McBride noted.

"This is a planned community regulatory scheme, unusual of other areas in Fairfax County," he said.

RESCUE RESTON board member Ray Wedell, who also sells real estate, believes the value of the property surrounding the golf course is already dropping - and that if homes were built on the space currently inhabiting the rolling greens, they would also not have a high property value.

Wedell noted that there were six homes for sale in Indian Ridge that sold in a very short time after their \$500,000-plus listings.

"However, in the second half of 2014, there were no contracts ratified for sale in the Indian Ridge, and at year end, five houses remained actively on the market," he said. "This shift in market sentiment is in large due to buyers' uncertainty regarding the golf course rezoning and their unwillingness to invest in a lifestyle which could disappear at a rezoning hearing."

Hundreds of Rescue Reston supporters sported bright yellow shirts at the county Board of Zoning Appeals Jan. 21.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

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OPINION

Outlook

Many bright spots will be overshadowed in the coming budget season.

Long awaited, the opening of the Silver Line promises to bring transformation to Tysons and around the current station in Reston, with another Reston station and Herndon to come.

The opening of Springfield Town Center has been greeted by enthusiastic shoppers, showing plenty of demand for retail and restaurants.

EDITORIAL

Housing prices are up, although so is the number of houses on the market, while the number of houses sold is down from last year.

But from local government, current economic conditions overall look more like this:

Job growth has slowed, and the jobs that are being created are lower paying. There is a decline in federal and business services employment, while the job growth that the region is experiencing is dominated by gains in hospitality and retail sectors. Slowing job growth and lower wages mean lower demand for home purchases and retail spending, while declines in federal jobs and government contractors mean lower demand for office space. The region is growing, but it is growing at a slower rate than projected one or two years ago.

Lower demand for office space translates into 19 million square feet of vacant office space in Fairfax County alone. Just for some sense of

scale, that is like having eight malls the size Tysons Corner Center (2.4 million square feet) completely empty. Arlington County has an office vacancy rate of more than 20 percent; in Rosslyn, the rate is approaching 30 percent (27.7). Overall, Northern Virginia has an office vacancy rate of more than 17 percent.

Not only are companies moving their offices from older office space to newer space, more transit-oriented space, but as they do so, they are downsizing the amount of space, leaving more less modern space vacant in the process.

The result will be a very difficult budget year in Northern Virginia. It's also a call to do things differently.

Critical to a successful economy will be to create housing that service and hospitality workers can afford. We have a massive shortage of affordable housing, and the opportunity transform some of the massive quantities of vacant office space into thoughtful, well-designed housing.

Be Part of the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a bi-annual themed edition, will publish Feb. 25, 2015.

We invite you to send us stories about your

pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Can your dog catch a Frisbee 10 feet in the air, or devour an entire pizza when you turn your back for less than a minute?

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience.

Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets (great preference for photos of pets and people), tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your address (we will only print the town name).

Submissions should arrive by Feb. 18.

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sex Offender Serving in the House

To the Editor:

Tracking the last eight months or so of Del. Ken Plums' Opinion columns in the Connection Newspapers, the bad topics are the Tea Party (Defender of a balanced budget, right to own a gun, and worshiping our Creator), and certain (but not all) ethics of political figures. According to Plum only some political positions are bad. Absent is any commentary on sexual per-

version: in Delegate Plum's record of commentary, the hypocrisy is glaring.

We have a liberal serving member of the House of Delegates who has been convicted of having sexual relations with a child on an all-too-convenient work release program to fulfill his elected duty to represent his District in the House. The argument is advanced that the heavily liberal district de-

serves to be represented in the General Assembly. Having a convicted sex offender serving a jail sentence concurrently while voting his conscience on the future of Virginia in the House appears to be acceptable to License Plate #1 Del. Plum.

The chickens are coming home to roost with liberal-sponsored sexual revolution of the 60s. We are now at the stage where "Just

say No" is the answer. Is it reasonable for a 17-year-old female political intern to just say "No!" to an experienced 40-year old male political product of the sexual revolution 60s? How many of us would happily fork over \$167,000 to spare our daughters of having to make that choice?

Jack Kenny
Reston Republican

A Challenge for Garza: Excessive Homework

To the Editor:

Your article "How Does She Do It" - Karen Garza's vision: the irresistible force moving immovable object of Fairfax County Public Schools (The Connection, December 24-10, 2014) showed FCPS Superintendent Dr. Garza as a force for change. In the Fairfax County school system, students demonstrate excellence by collaborating and achieving good grades with the assistance of teachers.

Teachers play a massive role in the successful education of students because teachers have high expectations for their students, they consistently stress the material that students need, and the teachers provide in class discussion which allows students to re-

lay what information they have obtained. However, the total combination of homework assigned by high school teachers for any one student is often excessive. As a result, students become overwhelmed with excess homework, even though the students might already understand the specific material. Students with excessive homework in school have less time to spend in after school activities, less time to study on their own, and less time to accomplish personal achievements.

Most experts agree, as do Fairfax County Public Schools' own guidelines that high school students should only have two hours of homework per night, in total. Currently, many teachers expect at least one or more hours of home-

work for each of their classes, especially at the honors levels. Another problem is that the teachers are not coordinating large tests and assignments as efficiently as possible. The end effect is that students taking various classes have too much homework dumped on them all at once, as well as at too many tests on certain testing days.

Students will be able to obtain more sleep next year due to the

later start times of high schools. Superintendent Garza plans to solve any issues that arise in the school systems; hopefully she will recognize that the failure to coordinate and limit homework among teachers is also a massive issue for high school students in FCPS.

James Adams
Herndon

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to: Letters to the Editor • The Connection
1606 King St. • Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: info@connectionnewspapers.com

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Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Pet Food and Adoption Center Opens at Reston's Lake Anne

PetMac merges animal rescue and good nutrition in shop.

DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

When PetMAC owner Cindy Williams of Vienna moved her pet supply and adoption center to Reston's Lake Anne, she took her business philosophy of community outreach and high-quality inventory to a lakeside shopping center abundant with small locally-owned businesses. Williams' PetMAC [Pet Marketplace and Adoption Center] opened at Lake Anne Plaza on Jan. 3. On Jan. 4, the shop featured its first adoption fair – homeless cats - with partner Homeward Trails, and repeated a cat adoption event the following Sunday.

"I really wanted to be a part of a community of other merchants and residents," said Williams. "I moved from Vienna to Reston two years ago and fell in love with Lake Anne."

PETMAC IS A NUTRITION-BASED pet supply shop selling all-natural pet foods, treats, toys and other supplies for dogs and cats. It works closely with local animal rescue groups to host adoption fairs, and Williams plans on having "resident" cats available for adoption at the shop.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, PetMAC hosted adoptable dogs from Homeward Trails from 10 a.m. to noon. A representative from Answers Raw Pet Foods was on-hand to offer free samples and provide information about their foods.

Often, shelter animals come in emaciated, needing nutrient-



Homeward Trails volunteer Fran O'Connell takes an "adoptable" cat out of her crate to show off to PetMAC customers. PetMAC owner Cindy Williams of Vienna [left] hosts cat and dog adoption events at her shop.

"I love being able to work with formerly-homeless animals and offer good nutrition to enhance their health ...

PetMAC is a merger of animal rescue and good nutrition for pets."

— PetMAC owner Cindy Williams

dense food to help them recover, Williams said. PetMAC donates a portion of its sales to rescue groups Williams works with, such as Homeward Trails and K-9 Lifesavers.

Williams has been actively engaged in animal rescue for about 20 years, first as a volunteer for the Washington D.C. Humane Society, where she got her dog, and for private rescue groups in Northern Virginia.

PetMAC moved to Lake Anne after almost a decade in Arlington. "When I opened the shop, I wanted to offer a venue to find homes for animals in-need, and

offer good nutritional options at prices competitive with other places selling the same food we sell," Williams said. "You do pay more for higher-quality food and ingredients."

PetMAC offers a diverse selection of canned, dry, and raw foods for dogs and cats, as well as accessories, from leashes to playtoys. The shop is decorated with a hand-painted trellis marked with pawprints as leaves.

A NATIVE OF THE D.C. AREA, Williams opened her first PetMAC in 2005. Her initial foray into the pet food business was a web-based



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Annie Abruzzo, 10, said that she and her mom saw the cat adoption sign and "had to come in."

home-delivery business model. When she opened her physical site in Arlington, Homeward Trails set up an adoption center there. Homeward Trails eventually moved to a larger location but Williams maintained her supportive partnership with them. PetMAC still works closely with Homeward Trails, as well as others, to find forever-homes for rescue dogs and cats. Potential pet-parents fill out an adoption application at the adoption events; they do not take the pet home immediately.

PetMAC sponsors and donates to, various fundraisers benefiting animals. It hosts frequent dog and cat adoption events and offers seminars conducted by veterinarians and other industry experts, as well as food-tasting demonstrations and social events. PetMAC features special events from Yappy Hours to photos with Santa and an annual Howl-o-Ween party for dogs.

Shortly after her Lake Anne grand opening, Williams lost her own cat to cancer. She under-

stands and appreciates the pet-parent/pet relationship. "I love being able to work with formerly-homeless animals and offer good nutrition to enhance their health," said Williams. "PetMAC is a merger of animal rescue and good nutrition for pets."

FOR MORE INFORMATION about PetMAC and upcoming events, go to www.petmac.org and click on the Lake Anne page. Winter operating hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sunday, except for special events, and Monday. PetMAC is located at 11412 Washington Plaza West. Park at Lake Anne Plaza and walk toward lake for PetMAC shop will be on your right.

To learn more about PetMAC's stock or information on adopting a new family member, contact Cindy Williams by email at cindy@petmac.org or by phone at 571-325-2099.

To learn more about animal rescue at Homeward Trails, go to www.Homewardtrails.org.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herndon swim and dive had senior night on Jan. 23 against Centreville.

Herndon Swim, Dive has Senior Night

Herndon swim and dive had senior night against Centreville on Jan. 23, with the Hornets' boys' and girls' teams winning. All Herndon seniors will advance to the Conference meet Jan. 30-31.

Herndon seniors are: Jessie Blystone (captain), Jack Van Camp (captain), Charlie Shen (captain), Karly Ginieczki (captain), Sam Racine, Sam Caballero, Matthew Williams, Austin Rider, Justin Bradley, Jason Maccannon, Marin Deutrich (1-year manager) and Christina Sneed (4-year manager).

Friday's winners were: Emily Meilus (100 free, 200 IM), Karly Ginieczki (200 free, 100 back), Carey Rice (50 free), Bella Back (500 free), Christian Ginieczki (200 IM, 100 back), Jack Van Camp (50 free, 100 fly) and Dylan Cudahy (200 free, 500 free).

South Lakes Track Shines at First Day of Conference 6 Meet

South Lakes High School sophomore Devyn Jones won two events and juniors Eric Kirlew and Anas Fain placed in the top three of two events in Day 1 of the Conference 6 indoor track and field championship Thursday, Jan. 22 at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md.

Jones led a SLHS sweep of the girls' 55-meter hurdles, winning the event in 8.85. Seniors Maya Rodriguez (9.44) and Claire Nieusma (9.88) finished second and third, respectively. Jones also won the long jump (16-08.50). Senior Comfort Reed with third (16-03.50).

Kirlew led the SLHS boys' long jumpers with a winning distance of 19-10.00. Junior Skander Ballard was second (19-06.00) and Fain finished third (19-05.00). Kirlew finished third in the 55 meters (6.84) behind sophomore teammate Timiebi Ogobri, who was second (6.68).

Fain won the 55-meter hurdles in 7.94 followed by senior teammate Nathan Stone (8.01).

Senior Jordan Lozama won the 55 meters (7.45) and finished fourth in the shot (27-01.50). SLHS took the top two spots in the girls shot with senior Ozioma Chinaka winning it with a throw of 28-04.50 and fellow senior Natalie Schauer finishing second (28-01.50).

In the boys' 3,200 meters, senior Andrew McCool ran a 10:04.65 for second and teammate Sean Miller, also a senior, took third (10:11.99). Sophomores John Swecker, Ashton Reinhold, juniors Connor Smith and John LeBerre finished second in the 4x800 meter relay (8:33.16) while freshman Olivia Beckner, juniors Golden Kumi-Darfour, Monica Lannen and senior Augusta Durham were third in that event with a 10:00.09.

South Lakes is leading in the team standings after the first day with the girls scoring 81 points and the boys scoring 92. The conference championship concludes Thursday, Jan. 29, with the top six finishers in each event and the top three relays advancing to the 6A North region championship meet Feb. 19.

Both will take place at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex in Landover.

The South Lakes girls' team posted a score of 81 on Day 1, followed by Madison (41), McLean (33), Langley (27), Washington-Lee (17), Hayfield (14) and Yorktown (4).

The South Lakes boys had a score of 92, followed by McLean (35), Washington-Lee (26), Madison (23), Langley (23), Fairfax (13), Yorktown (4) and Hayfield (1).

Oakton Girls' Basketball Improves to 16-1

The Oakton girls' basketball team defeated Herndon 69-50 on Jan. 23, extending its winning streak to 15 games while improving its record to 16-1.

The Cougars haven't lost since Dec. 4. The Cougars will host Robinson at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Girls Win Conference Championship

The Herndon High School indoor track women's team is the Conference 5 champion in the 4x800 relay. The Hornets' time of 9:46.34 is the 11th-fastest in school history. This was third time HHS has won the event and the first since 2008. The girls need to finish in the top six at regionals or run under 9:40.00 to advance to the state meet at Newport News the following week. The team is: Hannah Wolfe, Gabby Bustamante, Lauren Butler, and Olivia Duston.

Madison Girls' Basketball Beats Hayfield

The Madison girls' basketball team defeated Hayfield 60-34 on Jan. 23, improving the Warhawks' record to 11-5.

Madison is scheduled to travel to face Yorktown at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30.

Basketball Skills Camp

Jump Ball Basketball is running a basketball skills camp for boys and girls in grades 3-8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16 at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville. Visit www.catocinbasketball.com to register or email JumpBallBasketballVA@gmail.com for more information.

Register Now for Spring Baseball

Registration is now open for Vienna Little League, home of the 9/10 Virginia State Champs.

Spring baseball is right around the corner. For boys and girls ages 5-12, Vienna Little League offers an excellent program to help develop your child's love for the Great American Pastime.

Tryouts begin Feb. 6. New members meetings will be held Jan. 21 and Feb. 18. Visit www.vll.org for more information and to register online. Come join the fun.

Youth Field Hockey Registration Open

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring youth league for ages 5-18 (U8, U10, U12, and U14). No experi-

ence necessary. Once-weekly team practices with games on Saturdays. Season runs March 23-June 13. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Field Hockey Open House

Potomac Field Hockey is running an open house, which is free and open to the public. This drop-in style clinic will run at Dulles Sportsplex on Tuesday, March 10 from 5-7 p.m. Equipment is provided. Try your hand at field hockey before registering for the spring season. For more information or to RSVP for this event, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

High School Field Hockey

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring High School 5s game-only league for 9-12th graders. Players will be grouped by school. No experience necessary. Season runs Thursdays from 6-9pm at the Dulles Sportsplex, April 9-May 14. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Adult Field Hockey

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring game-only league for adults aged 18 and up. All games on Sundays at Loudoun Soccer Park on sport turf. Season runs April 12-June 7. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THROUGH SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an amazing array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcracker dolls came from? Nutcrackers have a fascinating history. The first nutcrackers were produced to crack nuts more effectively and the oldest known metal example, on exhibit in Tarent, Italy, is from the third or fourth century B.C. The Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum in Leavenworth, Washington, shows a bronze Roman nutcracker dated between 200 B.C and 200 A.D. German nutcrackers, made as decorative pieces, were developed around 1500. Early nutcrackers were in the shapes of animals, birds and people. Later, they were made in the likeness of kings, soldiers, church leaders and ruling class figures. Fine wood carved nutcrackers were created across Europe, especially in France and England by the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission: \$7/adult, \$6/student, \$5/senior or child.



Christine Carter as Karen Daniels, Kathy Ohlhaber as Monica Welles, and Wilson Paine as Leo Gibbs in Reston Community Players' whodunit "Rehearsal for Murder," running Jan. 16-31 at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colt Neck Road, Reston. Audiences are invited to test their wits as they enter a world of backstage drama where nothing is as it appears - or is it?

American artists. Jury-selected artists will display one-of-a-kind items in sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, wood, metal, furniture, home accessories, leather, photography and fine art. The Festival also features live music, children's entertainment and specialty food vendors. For more information, including admission discounts, a list of artists participating in the show and discount hotel rates, visit www.sugarloaforcrafts.com. Adults: \$8 online; \$10 at the door. Children under 12.

besides dig. Make a groundhog puppet to take home, and enjoy a snack and story. Reservations required by January 28. Fee: \$7/child RA members, \$9/child Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

THROUGH MONDAY/MARCH 16

Ice Skating at Reston Town Center. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. From early November through the early March, the Pavilion floor is transformed into a gleaming ice skating rink. Ice skates and other supplies are available inside the Skate Shop directly beside the Pavilion (behind Clyde's). Admission: \$10 per adult; \$9 for children under 12; \$5 per skate rental.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Meditation in Our Daily Lives. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Participants will learn the basic principles of meditation and how to carry the experience of meditation into their daily life. \$10 (\$5 unemployed, fulltime students, 65 and older). www.meditation-dc.org.
Crys Matthews. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Three of the mid-Atlantic's most notable up-and-coming singer-songwriters are coming together for one night of music. On Thursday, January 29, Crys Matthews, Andrea Nardello and Kipyn Martin will perform at Jammin' Java. Tickets: \$10-\$15.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Paper Making. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 5 to 12. Since ancient Egyptian times, people have been making paper for both artistic and practical purposes. Discover how to make your own recycled paper and learn how to use it in future craft projects. This is a perfect way to enjoy your day off from school. Reservations required by January 27. Fee: \$7/child RA members · \$9/child Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 30 - FEB. 1

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Browse and buy items and fine art created by more than 250 celebrated

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Cooking Class at Il Fornaio. 12 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Three-course lunch with wine and recipes included. \$55 (plus tax & gratuity). Reservations at 703-437-5544. ilfornaio.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 1

Super Bowl Golf Tournament. Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. Super Bowl Golf tournament - Kick off the day of the big game by playing in this annual event. Visit Herndon-va.gov for more information.

Name That Animal. 2-3 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Can you tell an animal by looking at just its ears, eyes, mouth or tail? Participate in a variety of animal guessing games and visit a special touch table. Learn to read clues left by animals like tracks and scat. If weather permits, walk the trails and identify sounds and other signs of wildlife. Reservations required by January 29. Fee: \$5/person RA members, \$7/person Non-members.

For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

MONDAY/FEB. 2 - TUESDAY/FEB. 3

Groovy Groundhogs. 10 - 11 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 18 months to 35 months. Celebrate Groundhog Day by learning about our largest rodent. Groundhogs have many names, and can do more than just dig holes. Learn their other names, how deep they can dig, and what else they do

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Traffic Caught



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If I were writing this column in Massachusetts – where I was born and mostly educated (K-12), and had a thick Boston accent, that's how court would likely be pronounced; changing a noun into a verb. But I'm not in Massachusetts. I'm in Maryland, and the traffic court to which I semi-refer is in Virginia, so I'm not "accenting" any "misannouncing," I'm merely invoking a bit of literary licensing and a double entendre of sorts, in advance of my twice-delayed court appearance, scheduled yet again for this Friday, January 30; and hoping for the feather while ever mindful of the hammer.

Transgression-to-date, the administrative office staff serving the Alexandria Traffic Court has been extremely reasonable in responding to my scheduling challenges. Due to my ongoing treatment for lung cancer, which mostly consists of every-three-week chemotherapy infusions, (same day, same center), every-three-month face-to-face appointments with my oncologist (same doctor, same center) and an every-three-month diagnostic CT Scan (same center; for luck, of course), I am not always in control of my schedule/availability. Moreover, given the nature and timing of these appointments (generally scheduled weeks/sometimes months in advance), especially infusions, which should occur on the same day (my day is Fridays) every three weeks to keep the cycle/protocol where it is supposed to be – meaning not subject to change if at all possible – I am beholden. And as it relates to my "case," the officer who ticketed me back in November is only in court on Fridays; ergo, the potential for trouble and the need for understanding.

Now, my infusion schedule may change, even though I said it doesn't. And it changes – without my control (but with my knowledge) – when certain levels measured in my pre-chemotherapy lab work (completed the Wednesday before the Friday infusion) are either too high or too low. When this occurs, my infusion is delayed a week to allow my body to recuperate, while a retest is planned for the following week/Wednesday when the same too-high or too-low potential exists and another week's delay is possible (this fifth week infusion has occurred once – mostly the delay has been to a fourth week – nevertheless, the potential exists). This is my routine and it is prudent that delays in my treatment occur to allow certain major organs in my body to not be any more collaterally-damaged than they already have been. Such is my life and I'm glad to live it.

However, this unpredictability can cause problems, since it takes precedence over any other appointments, as it has twice already with the Alexandria Traffic Court. Typically, I won't know my availability until the day before the actual infusion is scheduled (and coincidentally, the day before my scheduled traffic court appearance as well), so I really have no notice to provide; I am a victim of my own circumstances. But this Friday, Court will finally see me in person. No more excused absences – as reasonable and necessary as they have been. It will be time to pay the piper (hopefully not). Planning forward then, should I bore the Court with an abbreviated version of this column, appealing to their generosity of spirit, or shall I just admit my mistake, take my punishment like a man and get on with life? After all, I may not exactly be on borrowed time, but I'm not naive enough to think my clock isn't ticking.

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

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PHOTO BY TOM OUELLETTE/U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE-WASHINGTON DIVISION

Team Leader Jeanne Graupmann and Postal Inspector Heidi Lescault talk about law enforcement responsibilities with Girl Scouts of Troop 6080 on Monday, Jan. 12 at the Crossfield Elementary School in Herndon.

Girl Scouts Learn about Law Enforcement Jobs, Internet Safety

More than a dozen Herndon-based Girl Scouts of Troop 6080 got a rare look at law enforcement careers during a visit from Postal Inspectors on Monday, Jan. 12, at Crossfield Elementary School.

“Our goal was to show the Girl Scouts how the Postal Inspection Service protects U.S. Mail and give them a behind-the-scenes look of our jobs as federal agents,” said Jeanne Graupmann, team leader, U.S. Postal Inspection Service—Washington Division.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service. Postal Inspectors are federal agents and are responsible for enforcing the more than 200 federal laws protecting the U.S. Mail from illegal or dangerous use.

The Girl Scouts received the opportunity to handle law enforcement equipment, including putting on protective vests, using handcuffs, communicating with radios and holding a protective shield.

Postal Inspectors also gave a presentation about Internet safety.

“As the use of popular social media websites grows, the likelihood of cyberbullying and other Internet hazards grow,” said Graupmann. “It’s important for young people to learn how to stay safe online.” The Girl Scouts earned a new patch at the event. The organization of Women in Law Enforcement, or WIFLE, created a patch bearing their logo to award Girl Scouts who fulfilled certain requirements. WIFLE, collaborating with Girl Scouts of USA, created the patch in 2013 to help educate Girl Scouts of opportunities at law enforcement agencies.

“As a former Girl Scout, I was grateful for mentors who helped me explore different career options,” said Postal Inspector Dominique Giroux. “Meeting the Girl Scouts gave me an opportunity to return the favor and help them realize their potential to pursue any career they desire.”



Supporting Cornerstones

On Sunday, Jan. 18, the Women’s Club of Greater Reston celebrated its 45th anniversary. WCGR president Susan Ragland presented a check in the amount of \$450 to Gail Greenberg of Cornerstones.

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO NONCUSTODIAL PARENT OF NAME CHANGE HEARING: In the Matter of the Petition of Sophia Rose Shafi (nka Sophia Rose Arjana) for Minor Child, Saira Rose Shafi, to change the child's name to Saira Rose Arjana. District Court, Boulder County, Colorado Case No. 2014CV31267.

Notice is given that a hearing is scheduled for March 3, 2015 commencing at 1:30 p.m. in Division M of the Boulder County District Court, 1777 Sixth Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302. The purpose of the hearing is to request a change of name for Saira Rose Shafi. At this hearing the Court may enter an order changing the name of the minor child. To support or voice objection to the proposed name change, you must appear at the hearing. ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER Christopher Tomchuck, Stevens, Littman, Biddison, Tharp & Weinberg, LLC, 250 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 301, Boulder, CO 80302.

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Reston Updated Charmer

This 3 lvl home w/2 car garage in the Sunrise Valley School Elementary School district boasts upgrades galore! Enjoy the open floor plan & stunningly remodeled gourmet kitchen w/gas cooking, SS & granite. Remodeled & upgraded baths, gleaming hardwood floors & a private cul-de-sac location backing to woods are additional amenities that make this home so very special. Gas heat! Make memories in this wonderful family home.

Sunrise Valley School Elementary School district boasts upgrades galore! Enjoy the open floor plan & stunningly remodeled gourmet kitchen w/gas cooking, SS & granite. Remodeled & upgraded baths, gleaming hardwood floors & a private cul-de-sac location backing to woods are additional amenities that make this home so very special. Gas heat! Make memories in this wonderful family home.



Reston Large Fox Mill Woods Contemporary!

This stunning 5BR, 3.5.5BA home in sought after Fox Mill Woods features countless amenities...gleaming hardwoods, a huge renovated gourmet kitchen w/granite, SS, renovated baths(with laundry upstairs), 2 gas fireplaces, gas cooking & heat, & oversized 2 car garage. Beautiful & private guest/in-law space. The large open backyard & expansive deck are perfect for large & small gatherings & "treetop dining."

This stunning 5BR, 3.5.5BA home in sought after Fox Mill Woods features countless amenities...gleaming hardwoods, a huge renovated gourmet kitchen w/granite, SS, renovated baths(with laundry upstairs), 2 gas fireplaces, gas cooking & heat, & oversized 2 car garage. Beautiful & private guest/in-law space. The large open backyard & expansive deck are perfect for large & small gatherings & "treetop dining."



Vienna Perfect Home and Location

If you are looking for privacy & perfection, look no more! Sitting on 1.4 acres this home features numerous upgrades & a large wooded backyard for kids, pets, gardening, you name it! 4BR, 3.5BA(all upgraded) plus a bonus rm in the expansive lower level that is a WALK OUT! Gas heat! Gourmet kitchen features gas, granite & stainless. Wood floors on 2 levels. 2 car garage & a large deck. Madison High School! Just move in!

If you are looking for privacy & perfection, look no more! Sitting on 1.4 acres this home features numerous upgrades & a large wooded backyard for kids, pets, gardening, you name it! 4BR, 3.5BA(all upgraded) plus a bonus rm in the expansive lower level that is a WALK OUT! Gas heat! Gourmet kitchen features gas, granite & stainless. Wood floors on 2 levels. 2 car garage & a large deck. Madison High School! Just move in!



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Herndon \$534,900 Lovely, Renovated Colonial

On fantastic .30 acre lot.

Spacious home features 5BR, 2.5BA, front porch, multi-level deck w/hot tub overlooking private fenced yard & finished lower level walk-up, rec rm, den & BA. New gourmet kit w/high-end SS appl & granite opens to FR w/wood burning FP & French doors to deck. MBR has upgraded MBA w/W/I closet, refinished hardwoods, new lighting & fresh paint.



Reston \$359,000 UNIQUE!

2 level penthouse unit w/4BR, 2.5BA, 1860 square feet! Just .7

miles to Wiehle Ave Reston METRO station. New carpet, paint, updated bathrooms & kitchen. Condo fee covers all utilities & amenities including pool, tennis & tot lot.

Marnie Schaar 703-509-3107 or e-mail Marnie.schaar@longandfooster.com



Leesburg \$229,900 Adorable Detached Home at Townhome Price!

Gleaming hardwood floors plus recent updates including HVAC, kitchen, bathroom & more! Relax on the large deck overlooking private, fenced backyard! Off street parking pad for 2 cars. Also available for 6 month rental at \$1495.

Call Terry@703-861-0538 terry.atherton@longandfooster.com



Sterling \$2750/month rent Countryside Rental!

Light filled colonial w/large deck, 4BR, 2.5BA, master BR suite w/vaulted ceilings, sitting room, dual W/I closets & luxury master bath, quiet cul-de-sac street, pets OK.



Herndon \$565,500 Huge Price Reduction!

10 minutes to Silver Line METRO! Amazing value for the square footage. 4BR, 3BA freshly painted throughout & loads of updates. This house shows how much it was loved & cared for & ready for its new owner! All Herndon amenities, no HOA & close to Toll Road, shopping, schools, and park.

George Brown 703-401-7025 or e-mail George.brown@longandfooster.com



Fairfax \$210,000 Carefree Living-Fairfax Ridge

Delightful & light-filled condo in beautiful condition in gated community! Conveniently located in Fairfax off Waples Mill Rd, Rte 50, Rte 66 & steps to Fair Oaks Mall & Government Ctr. 1BR, 1BA, terrific kitchen w/42" cabinets & handy office or workroom off kitchen! Full size W/D. Community amenities inc: exercise rm overlooking pool, game rm, tot lot & grilling station for summertime parties! Great value & good starter home w/very low condo fees.

Call Min or Jimmy O'Burns today for your personal tour! 703-307-4095



Herndon \$549,900 Luxury Urban Design!

Quality 5 yr old end unit garage townhome in the heart of the Town of Herndon! Open floor plan w/gourmet kitchen 3BR, 3.5BA & 2 decks. Location convenient to roadways & transportation.

Call Debbie Tencza 703-597-4667 or e-mail Debbie.Tencza@longandfooster.com



Reston \$339,950 Meticulously Maintained Townhome

A-1 townhome, 2 BR, 2 BA in great condition w/ upgrades including hardwood floors on top 2 levels, new ceramic floor in FR, renovated baths, newer kitchen, storage galore from top to bottom, recent paint.

Call Pat Orend 703-407-3300 pat.orend@lnf.com



Potomac Falls \$524,000 Coming Soon!

Stunning 3BR, 2car garage, 20 ft wide townhome backing to trees near Trump National. Fabulous open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, move-in perfection!

Missy Edmondson 703-932-8484 or e-mail Missy.edmondson@longandfooster.com



Reston \$745,000 What a Lifestyle!

Stunning waterfront townhouse located on lake Audubon.

Renovated 3BR, 3.5BA, 3 decks, balcony and patio to enjoy amazing waterfront views. Stainless steel appliances, new carpet & paint, new windows & roof. Room for deck boat or pontoon along seawall just in back of the house. Close to shopping, walking trails & Silver Line METRO. Priced to sell!

Call Carol Fagan 703-909-1730 Carol.fagan@longandfooster.com or Gail Fagan 703-909-1723 Gail.fagan@longandfooster.com



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

- Anita Lasansky, Managing Broker

www.Reston-Herndon-Homes.com

1-800-296-2593

