Elected Officials Reflect on 2015

Top Reston/Herndon Sports Moments from 2015

Reston 2015: Year in Review

People of all ages stop to look at and give thanks to Bob Simon through his statue during the vigil at the Lake Anne Plaza.
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Reston 2015: Year in Review

Death of the Founder; termination of Lake Anne redevelopment, defense of golf course and more.

By Ken Moore
The Connection
Robert E. Simon, 101, Reston Founder

Robert E. Simon died Monday, Sept. 21, 2015 at home at Lake Anne in Reston. He was 101. “Of course, it’s with sadness, but we also all say, ‘Thank you. Thank you for having a Bob Simon,’” said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins. “He was a good friend and liked everyone. We at Cornerstones feel blessed to have worked with him,” said Kerrie Wilson, of Cornerstones. “Everyone is going to benefit from the legacy he leaves. ... He has been an inspiration to all of us for so long.”

Simon grew up in New York, where his father ran a real estate business whose holdings included Carnegie Hall. Also among Robert Simon, Sr.’s holdings was part of Radburn, N.J., America’s first Garden City that was founded in 1929.

When his father died in 1935, Simon was 21 and had just graduated from Harvard. Within a couple years, he was running the family real estate business. Part of his responsibilities involved running Carnegie Hall. Most of Simon’s co-workers lived nearby in Manhattan, while Simon commuted by train from Syosset, a suburb in Long Island. His long commute and other suburban experiences translated directly into his vision for Reston of working, playing and living in the same area.

Simon also saw the value of convenient, local recreation and shopping centers at this time in his life. During this period, Simon also developed his appreciation for the value of housing opportunities for all income levels, not just the very wealthy.

In 1961, Simon purchased a 5,750-acre parcel of land in Northern Virginia, located 18 miles from D.C., even though at the time it was in the middle of nowhere. Fairfax County was then the fastest growing county in the country and nearby Dulles International Airport was being built.

Simon decided to develop Reston into a New Town, a large-scaled development that includes all functions of a well-rounded community — residential, commercial, industrial, cultural, recreational and civic. The team first developed Lake Anne and the more traditional Hunters Woods simultaneously. The first families started moving into their homes in November 1964. In the fall of 1967, Reston’s population had grown to 2,500, though it had fallen short of projections. The development group headed by Simon made an agreement with Gulf Oil to get loans of millions of dollars to cover some of the debts Reston was quickly accruing. But the new managers

See Year in Review. Page 4

Cranes Are Back, Big Time!

Del. Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum (D-36): “While some look at the jagged lines on a graph to see how a region is doing economically, I have a much simpler approach: I look at the distant horizon and count the number of construction cranes I see looming. For several years they had disappeared during the Great Recession, but they are back big time!”

Reston Station has had a number of construction cranes I see looming. For several years they had disappeared during the Great Recession, but they are back big time! Reston Station has had a couple of cranes in place finishing the Blvd Apartments that will be opening next year. They were replaced by another crane at the office building going up on the plaza at Reston Station. Around the corner, two more are working on an apartment building that will join the recently-opened Harrison Apartments and Avant at Town Center.

The construction is an indicator that our economy is healthy and that we will be able to enjoy the educational, cultural and community advantages that come with prosperity.

A Year in Review

Bipartisan Successes

Congressman Gerald E. Connolly (D-11): “It was a busy year for Congress which saw bipartisan action on major, long-overdue initiatives that will benefit every segment of our community. For starters, Congress passed another two-year bipartisan budget agreement that replaces some of the draconian sequester cuts, which have disproportionately harmed Northern Virginia. It’s critical we maintain domestic and defense investments, and I will continue to push for relief from sequestration.

I was proud to represent Northern Virginia on the House-Senate conference committee that negotiated the new long-term transportation bill – the first in 10 years, which will provide more than $530 million in new road, transit, and safety improvements across Virginia. Congress also passed reforms to the Medicare payment formula to protect seniors and their doctors from harmful cuts, a perennial problem, and place it on a more sustainable path. We replaced the unpopular No Child Left Behind Act in favor of more flexible standards, and we passed new Trade Promotion Authority, setting rigorous labor, environmental, and enforcement standards for future trade deals. As you can see, Congress finally got something substantial done this year, and I hope these bipartisan successes will continue into 2016.”

Thank You to Retiring Supervisors

Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: “This summer, Fairfax County showcased our impressive public safety capabilities during the exciting World Police and Fire Games.

In March, to build on and enhance an already great Police Department, I convened a Police Practices Review Commission.

Recommendations from this 30-member Commission centered on use of force, response to offenders suffering from mental illness, communications, oversight and recruitment. Changes resulting from the work of the Commission will help foster our culture of public trust and ensure the fair and timely resolution of police-involved incidents. I signed on to Michelle Obama’s ‘My Brother’s Challenge’ to end Veteran Homelessness by the end of 2015. Thanks to our strong partnership with nonprofits and faith-based organizations, homeless veterans are now quickly identified and connected to support services and housing.

The year 2015 was an election year for local government. Please join me in saying ‘Thank you’ to retiring supervisors Gerry Hyland and Mike Frey and ‘Welcome’ to new Supervisors Dan Storck and Kathy Smith.”

Highlights of 2015

Sharon Bulova

Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum

Steve Hibbard
/The Connection

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Year in Review

From Page 3

forced Simon out.

"What happened was we were going full blast and running out of money," Simon said in an interview with the Connection on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

“They said, ‘you’ll have to leave,’ and he said, ‘no, you’ll have to fire me,’” said Simon’s stepdaughter and Reston Museum board member Lynn Lilenthal.

At the time, Reston was one of the only places in Virginia where housing was not segregated.

Simon left Reston and moved back to New York, but returned to Reston in 1993.

Lake Anne Redevelopment Dies?

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Lake Anne Development Partners LLC have terminated their contract to revitalize and redevelop Lake Anne.

“LADP indicated that serious market obstacles exist, and that the initial deal negotiated with the County may not be economically viable at this time,” according to county documents.

“I fear the outlook for Lake Anne revitalization is not good,” said longtime Lake Anne resident and advocate John Lovaas. "Certainly, we face at minimum, two-to-three years additional delay. Worse, it is difficult to imagine a project of the high quality of LADP’s plan emerging from the ruins, and harder yet to imagine one with anywhere near the generous affordable housing components.”

Plans to renovate apartments and commercial plaza had been approved by the Board of Supervisors in March, “after years of debate and discussion.”

The plan for Lake Anne called for 1,037 new mixed-income residential units, more than 110,000 square feet of new retail including a 15,800-square-foot boutique grocery, 82,454 square feet of office space, an amphitheater with outdoor movie screen, an expanded plaza with community gathering area, multiple public parks and additions of trails, underground parking and more.

Lake Anne turned 50 years old in 2014, the year Bob Simon, Reston’s founding father turned 100.

“Lake Anne is still taught today as a case study at almost every American architect and urban-design program,” said Michael E. Hickok, architect of a massive redevelopment proposal approved by the Board of Supervisors in the spring. “To say it was ahead of its time is an understatement.”

Cathy Hudgins, Reston’s representative on the Board of Supervisors, is not happy about the situation.

“We’ll have to reassess,” Hudgins said. “Lake Anne is an asset. Crescent is an asset. We’ll have to build upon what we still have.”

“The Crescent community has been on edge,” she said.

Residents of the Crescent Apartments, who would have had to move for the Lake Anne plan to go forward, were anxious about the timeline, and it was time to let them know that they could stay put because the deal would not go forward at this time.

The Crescent apartments had developed significant vacancies associated with the planned redevelopment, but will now begin leasing again soon.

Circuit Court Rules on Golf Course

The owners of Reston National Golf Course hope to build housing on the land in the future, but a recent court ruling will require them to go through the usual zoning process to do so.

Circuit Court Judge Michael F. Devine made a ruling that protects Reston National Golf Course from being developed, at least until the owners of the golf course navigate the proper channels to seek a land use change, or continue to appeal its case.

Judge Devine granted Fairfax County Attorney Laura Gori’s motion for summary judgment filed by Fairfax County, meaning the Circuit Court vacated and voided the April 15, 2015 county Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) decision concerning the Reston National Golf Course.

“The circuit court ruling on Friday, Nov. 6, is considered a defeat for the owner of the golf course and is significant because any redevelopment of the course must now be preceded by the filing of specific plans with the county, which will then be compared with the Development Plans approved in 1971,” said John McBride, Reston Association’s legal counsel.

“These plans are in the county zoning files and clearly limit use of the land to a golf course, open space and driving range. Any change to these approved plans will require amendment approval by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The golf course owner had sought to avoid this requirement for a plan amendment by seeking by-right use status for a number of residential and other uses.”

“This is an important step forward in defending Reston’s permanent open space,” said Connie Hartke, of Rescue Reston.

“The property owner of Reston National Golf Course is back to square one. Their choices are: appeal to Virginia Supreme Court, follow County process to attempt a land use change, accept that no means no,” said Connie Hartke, of Rescue Reston.

“There is a significant cost to submit a PRC plan that could be dead on arrival,” said Scott D. Helsel, attorney for RN Golf, tallying a $100,000 application fee and half a million dollars necessary for engineering, environment, sewer and stormwater plans to be able to submit an application.

“That’s an expensive way to find out an answer to the question we want an answer to,” he said.

RA Purchases Tetra Property

Reston Association (RA) bought the 3.47 acre Tetra property, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., for $2.65 million in July. Two months earlier via referendum, association members voted to approve the purchase the property for community and recreation use.

“The Tetra Property purchase represents a historic moment for our association. It is the first time in RA’s history that property has been acquired to protect against over development, to enhance green space and to increase community and recreational use opportunities for members,” said Reston Association Board president Ellen Graves.

RA CEO Catie Fulkerson said she believes the property will be ready for the community to use by spring 2016.

“Members will not see an impact to their assessment fee from this purchase until 2018 at the earliest,” she said.

The property, which sits between RA’s Lake Newport Tennis Court complex and part of the RA’s Brown Chapel Park, creates a continuous band of 98 acres of common area property or parkland.

Silver Line Turns One

The Silver Line celebrated its first birthday with festivities at the Wiehle-Reston East stop on July 26.

“Wiehle-Reston East continues to be the Silver Line’s commuting powerhouse, surpassing first-year ridership projections with hopeful vision.”

See Year in Review, Page 11
Reston Hospital Center Receives Chest Pain Center Accreditation

HCA Virginia’s Reston Hospital Center received full Chest Pain Center Accreditation with Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) with Resuscitation from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC) on Nov. 11. To become an Accredited Chest Pain Center, the hospital and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were thoroughly evaluated for the ability to assess, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack. The team met or exceeded a wide set of criteria and an onsite review by an accreditation specialist.

“Reston Hospital Center is committed to offering the highest standards of safety and quality care for our patients. This accreditation represents our ongoing dedication to expand and improve our clinical practices,” said Dr. David Jacobs, medical director of the emergency department. “It also validates that we have the necessary processes in place to reduce the time from the start of symptoms to diagnosis, and treat patients more quickly during the window of time when the heart muscle can be preserved.”

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 people dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. SCPC’s goal is to significantly reduce the mortality rate of these patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to the early symptoms of a possible heart attack, reduce the time that it takes to receive treatment, and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment.

An Accredited Chest Pain Center’s (CPC) evidence-based, protocol-driven and systematic approach to cardiac patient care allows clinicians to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack. Accredited facilities better monitor patients when it is not initially clear whether or not a patient is having a coronary event. Such monitoring ensures patients are neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

SCPC’s CPC Accreditation process came about as greater numbers of facilities in the United States sought to establish standards and adopt best practices in the quality of care provided to patients experiencing chest pain. SCPC’s CPC Accreditation process ensures that hospitals meet or exceed an array of stringent criteria and undergo a comprehensive onsite review by a team of accreditation review specialists. Hospitals that receive SCPC CPC Accreditation status have achieved a higher level of expertise in dealing with patients who present with symptoms of a heart attack. They emphasize the importance of standardized diagnostic and treatment programs that provide more efficient and effective evaluation as well as more appropriate and rapid treatment of patients with chest pain and other heart attack symptoms. They also serve as a point of entry into the healthcare system to evaluate and treat other medical problems, and they help to promote a healthier lifestyle in an attempt to reduce the risk factors for heart attack.

By achieving SCPC’s Chest Pain Center with Primary PCI with Resuscitation Accreditation status, Reston Hospital Center demonstrates expertise in the following areas:

❖ Integrating the emergency department with the local emergency medical system;
❖ Assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients quickly;
❖ Effectively treating patients at low risk for acute coronary syndrome and no assignable cause for their symptoms;
❖ Continually seeking to improve processes and procedures;
❖ Ensuring the competence and training of Accredited Chest Pain Center personnel;
❖ Maintaining organizational structure and commitment;
❖ Constructing a functional design that promotes optimal patient care;
❖ Supporting community outreach programs that educate the public to promptly seek medical care if they display symptoms of a possible heart attack.

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To Highlight your Faith Community, Call Karen at 703-917-6468
The Time to Give
County promotes 11 ways to give back to your community.

By Wendy Lemieux
Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships

It’s the most wonderful time of the year... to help others. Fairfax County has made it easy with its “Forget the Fruitcake — Ways to Give Campaign” that promotes 11 ways to give back to your community. Running through the end of the year, you can donate to any of these 11 county nonprofits, foundations and agencies in honor of anyone on your gift list. It makes shopping easy and offers you a nice tax deduction. But best of all, it helps those organizations succeed in bringing goods and services to those who need them most at this time of year.

On any given day more than 67,000 people go hungry in the county and more than 30 percent of the students in Fairfax County schools are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Despite its affluent status, Fairfax has a population that benefits from programs such as “Ways to Give.” There is something for everyone on your list whether they like animals, education, summer fun or community spirit. Gifts that give back include books, a week at camp, medical care, bikes, trees and food for the hungry.

Through a partnership with ad agency Williams Whittle, Fairfax County’s Office of Public Private Partnerships has honed the message and the graphics which has made a difference in the look and feel of the campaign. Williams Whittle liked the campaign in previous years and offered their professionals services and contacts to make the program even better. And it’s resulted in numerous pro bono advertisement and engagement from community stakeholders. One beneficiary of the increased exposure was the Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) — whose mission is to restore the tree canopy in Fairfax County. When the first ad was placed in the connection mid-November, FCRP reported a 70 percent increase in visits to their website that offers to plant five native trees in honor of a family member or friend.

This is the fifth year of the “Ways to Give” campaign that so far has resulted in an increase in 50 percent in web traffic. Although donor numbers are not available until January, participating agencies and nonprofits have reported a surge in traffic to their sites.

To donate and learn more visit www.GiveFairfax.net.
SATURDAY/DEC. 26

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 30
Puppet Show: Wild Winter Break. 10 a.m. 11:15. Visher Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Enjoy a creative puppet show about how the animals at the nature center are spending their winter break. Create an animal puppet of your own to take home. Ages 5 to 12 with an adult. $6-$8. Reserve by Sunday, Dec. 24. naturecenter@reston.org. 703-476-9669.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31


SUNDAY/JAN. 3
Country Western Dance. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Line dance, two-step, shuffle and swing the night away to popular country/western tunes played by RCC’s DJ. Refreshments provided. $5-$10. 703-476-4500.

TUESDAY/JAN. 5

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6
Electron Information Session. 7-8:30 p.m. Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Information session for members interested in running for a position on the RA Board of Directors. Three seats on the board open in April of 2016. Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District Representative, North Point District Representative, and At-Large Member. www.reston.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10
Sunday Afternoon Dance. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Dancers of all skill levels are welcome to footstomp, swing, cha-cha, and waltz during these fun afternoon dances. Music selection ranges from golden oldies to today’s more modern dance selections. Door prizes and light refreshments add to the fun; partners are not required. 18 and older. $5/$10 per session. 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16
“Remembering the Dream.” 4 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Orchestra celebrates the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at its next concert “Remembering the Dream” with symphonic works, spirituals, and songs inspired by his legacy. Featuring baritone Bryan Jackson and Reston’s own Beverly Cohan.

Ongoing

2016 ArtsSpace Herndon Fine Art Photography Competition. Submission by 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16. ArtsSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. ArtsSpace Herndon invites photographers from Virginia, DC, Maryland, and West Virginia to participate in the competition. It is open to fine art photographers aged 18 or older working in any medium (digital or analog, color or monochrome), and using any printing technique. Fine Art. Photography of any subject is welcome; there is no required theme for entries. For more information, visit http://www.artspaceherndon.com/call-for-art/ or call 703-956-6590.

Gingerbread Village at Hyatt Regency Reston. Saturday, Dec. 3 through Thursday, Dec. 31. The Hyatt Gingerbread Village is a holiday tradition presented annually since the hotel’s opening in 1990. The sweet, whimsical, classic holiday village scene is on display in the main lobby. reston.hyatt.com.

Regina Petrecca’s Paintings. February-March. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. PenFed Realty, 1806 Metro Center Drive, Reston. Energetic brushstrokes are the hallmark of Regina Petrecca’s paintings. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

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

Portals, 2014, Mylar, fossils, variable dimensions by Rebecca Kamen is on display at the gallery at Greater Reston Arts Center from Dec. 1-Feb. 13. Photo by Gary Freeburg.

Herbie D and the Dangermen return for the annual New Year’s Eve Celebration at ArtSpace Herndon.

ArtSpace Herndon is inviting the public to the New Year’s Eve celebrations for children and adults on Dec. 31.

From 2-4 p.m., parents will celebrate the New Year with their children ages 5 to 12 at the Children’s Crafts and Dance Workshop led by one of the region’s most celebrated youth art and dance instructors - Acoatin Torres. This two-hour program includes a fun scarf design crafts workshop along with Acoatin’s popular Bollywood, Latin and American folkloric dance lessons. The cost is only $5 per child and includes complimentary cocoa and snacks. Children should wear old clothes because the craft activity involves fabric dyes. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For the adults, ArtSpace Herndon is happy to announce the return of Herbie D and the Dangermen - back by popular demand, for the annual New Year’s Eve Celebration. Dance the night away to traditional and New Orleans jump blues while enjoying complimentary hors d’oeuvres, soft drinks and a champagne toast at midnight. The donations for wine and beer will be accepted. The celebration is from 10 p.m.-12:30 a.m. and tickets are only $25/person. Both events are expected to sell out fast, so be sure to re-serve your seats early by visiting ArtSpaceHerndon.org or calling 703-956-6590.
The year 2015 included the end of a playoff drought, a program turnaround and a few individual titles for Reston/Herndon high school sports. Two South Lakes teams that had struggled in recent seasons showed improvement, while a Herndon gymnast out-performed her peers.

The following is a look at some of the top moments in Reston/Herndon sports from the year 2015.

**South Lakes Baseball Ends Regional Drought**

The South Lakes baseball team defeated Washington-Lee 3-1 in the Conference 6 tournament quarterfinals on May 15, earning the Seahawks their first region tournament berth since 2003.

While snapping a regional drought of more than a decade was reason enough to celebrate, the Seahawks would add to their memorable 2015 postseason.

South Lakes entered the 6A North region tournament as the No. 4 seed from Conference 6 and upset Conference 7 champion Lake Braddock 5-0 in the opening round on May 29.

South Lakes ended the year with a 9-3 record and finished second in the Conference 6 standings behind Madison.

**South Lakes Football Finds Success**

Prior to 2015, the South Lakes football program compiled a record of 11-30 in the previous four seasons, including 2-8 during head coach Trey Taylor’s first campaign with the program in 2014.

With a sophomore quarterback leading the offense and an improved defense limiting opponents, South Lakes turned things around in 2015, finishing the regular season with a record of 8-2 — the program’s best regular season mark in more than 15 years, according to vhsl-reference.com.

In the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs, the Seahawks overcame a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Oakton 35-28. Sophomore quarterback Devin Miles completed 17 of 28 passes for 214 yards and three touchdowns, with one interception. Marvin Grunshie had seven receptions for 114 yards and two scores.

In the quarterfinals, South Lakes challenged eventual state champion Westfield before falling to the Bulldogs 24-13.

South Lakes ended the year with a 9-3 record and finished second in the Conference 6 standings behind Madison.

**Herndon’s Keys, Meilus Win State Championships**

Herndon sophomore pole vaulter Jessica Keys and sophomore swimmer Emily Meilus each won individual state titles during the winter season.

Keys won the pole vault title during indoor track season with a clearance of 9 feet, 9 inches. Meilus repeated as 100 backstroke champion with a time of 55.08 seconds.

**Herndon’s Bradley Wins Conference 5 Gymnastics Title**

Herndon gymnast Alexa Bradley won the 2015 Conference 5 all-around championships on Feb. 5 at Centreville High School, beating her nearest competitor by more than two points. Then a sophomore, Bradley produced a score of 36.175. Robinson’s Caroline Burda was second with 34.05.

Bradley finished first on floor (9.575), bars (9) and beam (8.5), and placed third on vault (9.1).

Bradley’s performance helped Herndon finish second as a team and earn one of the conference’s two regional berths.

Bradley would go on to compete as an individual at the state meet. Her best event was bars, on which she placed 15th with a score of 8.975.
Metro’s New Manager Meets the Public

Farewell paper tickets, welcome General Manager Wiedefeld.

By Ryan Dunn
The Connection

In 1965, federal legislation allowed for the creation of a mass transit system for Washington, D.C. The Washington Metro system would be part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s vision to rebuild cities and bring the nation together. Washington Metro system was begun with ambitions, and started service in 1976. Almost forty years later, new General Manager Paul Wiedefeld is trying to win back public support for the transit system.

WMATA transit systems have been facing a loss of credibility with frequent delays and lack of transparency. Wiedefeld said his priority is safety and to improve reliability. Wiedefeld is a former head of Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and a former Maryland transit official. The new GM says he will not seek to raise wage transportation fees until 2017. With the opening of Silver Line, Metrorail serves a total of 91 stations on a 118-mile system in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Since accepting the position of general manager, Wiedefeld has fielded questions from riders at a public forums, including the newly formed WMATA Riders’ Union. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hosted a forum at the Wiehle–Reston East station Thursday, Dec. 17 to hear from the public about WMATA and help identify solutions for Metro. Attending were Wiedefeld, Fairfax County Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Chair of the Board of Directors of the WMATA Mortimer L. Downey, and Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce CEO Jim Corcoran.

Virginia’s two principal (voting) directors on the WMATA board include Corcoran, who represents the state government, and Hudgins who represents Fairfax County on the panel. In January, Hudgins will reach the 12-year mark as a Metro board member.

Virginia’s two alternate members, Arlington County Board Chairman Mary Hynes and Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille, are leaving office.

After an introduction, Wiedefeld joined Hudgins, Downey, and Corcoran in taking questions from an audience of over twenty persons at the Wiehle–Reston East station. Wiedefeld shared he uses the Metro in his work commute. Downey said the Metro radio system needs to be replaced, so at the same time equipment to improve cell phone reach will be installed. FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and Downey hope the project can be completed in less than five years. Wiedefeld also said a nationwide search is underway for a new safety director at Metro.

Arlington resident Audrey Clement encouraged Wiedefeld to focus on maintenance issues during his first year as manager. Other topics mentioned at the Reston meeting included the possibility of a frequent-flyer or frequent-rider program, along with time changes for Metro morning peak hour fare. WMATA will also try out a flexible “name your own price” passes. Some in audience wondered if praise is shared in to compliment a conductor,” said Merrifield resident Kerry Morse. This lead to questions on whether Metro staff and station managers could enjoy a sense of ownership or pride on the stations and lines they worked.

Alexandria resident John Nelson, who uses the Metro Blue Line and will join the Riders’ Advisory Council (RAC) in January, asked if police presence could be encouraged at the Metro stations. Wiedefeld agreed with the idea, and wants increased police visibility, not just at the information kiosks but also on the platforms.

Arlington resident Brian Gannon, who works in Reston as a facility manager at the Reston Community Center at Hunters Wood, attended the Dec. 17 Reston meeting. While Gannon said the official WMATA mobile phone app could be improved, he was glad Metro has a permanent manager. “I like how the general manager is making himself available and listening. I am optimistic,” said Gannon.

In the meantime, work continues on Phase 2 of the Virginia Silver Line, which is expected to reach Dulles International Airport and begin service in 2020.

—Jacquelyn Roth

Village
Thailand
Indonesia
Scotland

South African Village with children.

Global Village at Lake Anne

On Friday, Dec. 11, Lake Anne Nursery Kindergarten (LANK) held its third annual Global Village event, which celebrated family, peace, and diversity. Through four village scenes, LANK preschoolers and their families experienced traditions, customs, and unique cultural insights into what it means to be a family in different parts of the world.

LANK built four village scenes that served as replicas of what a “visit” to South Africa, Thailand, and Indonesia, Scotland, and a community shelter may be like. With a trip to each, students interacted, built, asked questions, and explored, thereby stimulating their natural curiosity and desire to learn. They sang a family song from South Africa and made braided Roeksisistes (a donut), played with traditional paper sable baskets called “Loi Krathong” from Thailand, learned about Scottish families called “clans,” and how families who experience transition or challenge may spend some time together in a temporary shelter. In the shelter they discussed the difference between needs and wants. To sweeten the experience, unique foods and drinks from each village were available to sample, and books and musical instruments were showcased to round out the event.

In an effort to tie the global community theme to our local community, families were asked to bring a blanket donation that was then provided to the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, a Reston organization that provides residential and drop-in services and supplies each night for up to 70 people. The shelter is urgently in need of blankets this winter. For information on how you can donate, contact Susan Alger, volunteer manager, at susan.alger@cornerstonesva.org or 571-323-1383.

—Jacquelyn Roth

Village
Thailand
Indonesia
Scotland

Temp Shelter Discussion: Needs vs. Wants.

Photo by Astro Wel

Photo by Ryan Dunn/The Connection

South African Village with children.

Global Village at Lake Anne

Photo by Ryan Dunn/The Connection
RF Engineering Managers

J.E.S. Services

WINDOWS & GLASS


careersta@amdocs.com; Ref: HR-0419

SR. RF ENGINEERS

J.E.S. Services


An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

Educational Internships

Unusual opportunity to learn many aspects of the newspaper business. Internships available in reporting, photography, research, graphics. Opportunities for students, and for adults considering change of career. Unpaid. E-mail internship@connectionnewspapers.com

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By KENNETH R. LOURIE

Last week I was "naive and delusional."

This week, not so much. Meaning: I'm well aware of my circumstances and not mind-ing what usually matters. To that point, there's no doubt that March is days away that are more challenging than others. And even though I'm a veteran of the cancer wars, seven years and counting, this Feb. 7, I have been blessed with the proper temperament and attitude for the task at hand: enduring the stress and strain of dealing with cancer diagnosis and all its effects and afflicts and not gorging on/dark in the process. It's not as if cancer has become my new best friend, more like a roommate I've learned to accept — who's not moving out any time soon, but I have learned to manage, mostly. I am a Libra after all, and balance is my symbol.

Still, over time, you do get to wonder. How do you find a way to ignore the symptoms, not so much that it risks your health, but enough so it doesn't "anguish" your daily life. Because there's definitely no future — or rather not much of one, when every day becomes an emotional battle to the hopefully-nil.

As far as to speak. I don't want the cancer too much credit but, it's fairly powerful andadvantageous and contributing to its strength serves no purpose and creates no advantage. It doesn't need any help doing all the harmful physical, emotional and spiritual, things it does. Granted, ripting all it in the bud is much, much better than when it is as the doctor's office/infection center, but unless you become the master of your domain, the king of the castle, the lord of the manor, the more difficult your cancer experience will be.

This is not to imply that a positive attitude cures, it means help it. This is to say that being miserable, feeling sorry for yourself or 'woeing' is me, though understand-ness of the symptoms and just as Princess Kurajin (a character from Downton Abbey) said: "Nothing is more tedi-ous than other people's misfortunes." And I certainly don't want to be tedious and boring. As a matter of fact, I'll make the extra effort - even when I don't feel like it, to avoid being thought of as anything but healthy and normal as I can say, normal. The more positivity I can exude, the more positive I likely will receive in turn. It's not exactly chemotheraphy, or treat-ment or immunotherapy, but "Good Vibrations" is more than just a Beach Boys classic. It's a way to my heart and soul, and hopefully to my lungs as well.

When it comes to being a cancer patient, I know what I know, what I feel, and more importantly — in my mind, anyway. I know what I know. Facts, figures, protocols, drugs, clinical trials, I don't know. As my wife's deceased, maternal grandmother, Franny would say: I am "a dumb as a post." For me, ignorance is sort of bliss. I don't worry about what I don't know, I already have enough trouble worrying about what I do know. Urgo strategy: take the good with the bad — which is easy, and when there is bad, compartmentalize it somehow, put it in 'the vault.' To summarize, and with all credit and respect to Crosby, Stills & Nash: "White Christmas." I must 'Accentuate the positive. Eliminate the negative. Latch on to the affirmative.' Moreover, I have to believe if I want to feel good, I have to think good — thoughts that is. And the more humor and nonsense I can think in my life, the better I feel and think. I don't know if my future will be any better because of it but my present sure will.

Kennie Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
‘Honor, Humility, Humanity’
Members of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, constitutional officers, sworn in.

Hundreds of friends, family, constituents and county employees came on Tuesday, Dec. 15 to see the swearing-in of the members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and constitutional officers.

Music was provided by the Chantilly High School Orchestra. Deputy Sheriff Rob Deer played the bagpipes, and the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office Singing Stars, Myrna Kinney, Sommer Grasty and Nicole Arnet, sang the national anthem and ‘America the Beautiful.’

Sharon Bulova was sworn in for her third term as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, although she began as Braddock District supervisor in 1988 and has served on the board since then. The Board of Supervisors consists of the chairman, elected at large, and nine district members.

With two members of the board retiring, there are two new members, both previously serving as members of the school board. Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon) will replace longtime supervisor Gerry Hyland (D). Kathy Smith (D-Sully) will replace Michael Frey (R).

Other members sworn in include: John Cook (R-Braddock), John Foust (D-Dranesville), Penelope Gross (D-Mason), Pat Herring (R-Springfield), Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee), and Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence).

Also sworn in on Tuesday were the three constitutional officers, Commonwealth’s Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh, Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid and Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court John Frey. Three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District also took oaths as directors, Scott Cameron, George Lamb and Gerald O. Peters Jr.

Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence) takes the oath of office from Judge Penney S. Azcarate. Smyth was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2003, after serving four years on the Fairfax County Planning Commission. Smyth chaired the board’s Information Technology Committee and is vice chair for the Personnel Committee.

Judge Penney S. Azcarate, who administered the oath of office to each, reminded elected officials to serve with “honor, humility and humanity.” Bulova’s inaugural speech included a note of serious gratitude:

“In light of recent racial and cultural tensions rising across the country, let us be grateful we live in a county that celebrates our differences and demonstrates acceptance and compassion for others.”

Former Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and current Electoral Board director Kate Hanley in the crowd at the inauguration. Hanley is a Reston resident.