

# Reston **CONNECTION**



Lucy enjoying one of the many trails around Reston this past fall. Lucy is a people-loving 9-year-old Golden Retriever owned by the Springfield family of Reston.

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About \$300 More  
Per Household

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Finding That 'Special  
Someone' at Lake Anne

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Inside  
**PET CONNECTION**



# BECAUSE A COACH CARED

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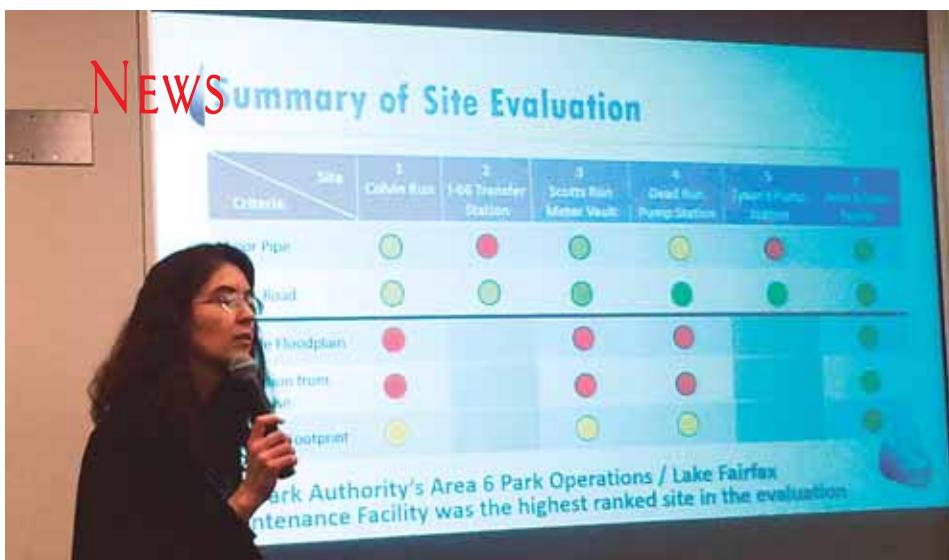
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**Engineer Ellen Hall alerts Reston residents why Lake Fairfax Park is the most suitable location of the six studied for a septic receiving site.**



**More than 150 Reston residents told county officials that Lake Fairfax is not feasible for the site.**

## Lake Fairfax Neighbors Oppose Septage Proposal

**Reston residents voice outrage at the possibility of Great Falls septic being relocated to Lake Fairfax Park.**

By KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Reston's Richard Sheehe spent more than 90 minutes hearing engineers and county officials try to convince Reston residents why moving a Septage Receiving Site to a portion of Lake Fairfax Park would be ideal. That's when Sheehe raised his hand.

"Will the county agree to suspend any work on preliminary designs and revise the next steps to review and expand the feasibility study?" Sheehe asked.

He held up and read verbatim from the last page of the Feasibility Study hand out, "Next steps: incorporate community input into preliminary design."

"Do we have that assurance?" said Sheehe.

"Yes," said Thomas J. Russell, director of the Wastewater Collection Division.

Fairfax County Wastewater Management held the community meeting Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Bechtel Conference Center in Reston to discuss the feasibility of moving the Colvin Run septage receiving site in Great Falls to a maintenance portion of Lake Fairfax Park accessed by Hunter Mill Road.

Moments before, from the audience, Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder said to the engineers and officials, "It's clear tonight you have to broaden your feasibility study to look at non-public sites."

Russell agreed to expand the search.

**ABOUT 21,000** customers in Fairfax County don't have access to public sewer and are served by individual household septic systems that require "pump-out" every five years.

Approximately 49 percent of the sewage generated in the county is from septic tanks.

Approximately 3,200 food service estab-



**Tim Greten lives next door to the proposed septage receiving site and has well water in addition to a septic tank. "I need to fight this until hell freezes over, and then I need to fight from the ice," said Greten.**

lishments require collection from grease traps.

The county's septage management program also collects waste from portable toilets at parks, construction sites, community events and races.

"County regulations say if it is generated here, it needs to be disposed of here and needs to be treated here," said Russell.

About 44 hauling companies and a total of 189 trucks are currently registered with the Fairfax County Health Department. About 22 trucks per day use the Colvin Run Site, according to the feasibility study documents.

The Colvin Run facility, located in Great Falls, serves north county. But it is an outdated facility with a substandard design, said engineers.

Community residents near the Colvin Run facility requested a change because of odor, noise, conflicting use of the access road with park patrons and flooding. The site is in the floodplain that has flooded in the past and contaminated Colvin Run park.

"It takes days for that sewage to get cleaned up," said Eric Lienhard, engineer with Hazen and Sawyer.

**SIX ALTERNATIVE SITES** were evaluated, including Colvin Run and Lake Fairfax. The I-66 Transfer Station and Tysons Pump Station were immediately determined non-

suitable because they don't have 30-inch pipe capacity. Scotts Run Meter Vault and Dead Run Pump Station were less ideal than Lake Fairfax because they are located within the floodplain and can't be separated from public use.

Reston residents asked why the Colvin Run couldn't be updated and enhanced with larger pipes.

The problem is the connection to smaller pipes in the neighborhoods. "If there's not enough volume to push it along, it's going to get stinky. That water is going to sit there," said Lienhard.

Reston's Roland Smith said calmly, "You need to go to a place compatible with industrial zoning."

Rob Whitfield suggested locations around Dulles Airport that can handle the facility, not neighborhoods.

Tammi Petrine, of Reston, asked if one of the two sites of Meadows Farms, with convenient access along Route 7 could be looked at.

Nearly all objected loudly to hauling trucks meandering down Hunter Mill Road.

Another resident asked if the engineers knew how much a full sewage tank weighed.

"I looked it up," she said, saying loaded trucks weigh up to 56,000 pounds.

"That's more than the 19 tons allowed" on the one-lane bridge. "So it's not legal,"



**Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins:** "I'm a bit appalled. I'm a little concerned not of the position that you are taking, but by the fact that you are not listening to the answer. Whatever your opinion is, I wish you'd allow them to talk."

she said.

**SUPERVISOR CATHY HUDGINS** redirected the meeting about 45 minutes in, when tempers rose and people shouted before officials could answer anyone.

"It's not an odor, it's a vomit-inducing stench," yelled one resident.

"I'm a bit appalled," said Hudgins.

"I'm a little concerned not of the position that you are taking but by the fact that you are not listening to the answer. Whatever your opinion is, I wish you'd allow them to talk." More than 150 people attended the meeting, even though some said they just learned about it.

"Do respect that there are a lot of people here and we want to hear from all of you," she said. Tim Greten announced that he is next door to the proposed site.

"You seem surprised that everybody is very angry," said Greten. "I got notified Tuesday that there is an industrial site going in my backyard. I didn't hear you all say one bad thing about it."

Gretchen said he has a septic tank, and he understands that a septage system needs a home somewhere in the county.

But his family's home is also on well water.

"I need to fight this until hell freezes over, and then I need to fight from the ice," said Greten.

# About \$300 More per Household

**County Executive: Revenue growth is insufficient to fund all priorities. Schools still \$68 million short.**

By KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**C**ounty Executive Ed Long recommended a four-cent increase to the real estate tax rate.

But to meet the full request of Fairfax County Public Schools, he said, would require a three-cent increase on top of the budget he built.

Long presented the FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday morning, Feb. 16.

"The budget is a discussion with the community," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"This is the first step," said Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay, head of the board's budget committee.

"We have to see what the reactions are," said Long.

Bulova is scheduled to advertise the FY 2017 tax rate on March 1. At that point, the board can lower but not increase from the tax rate advertised.

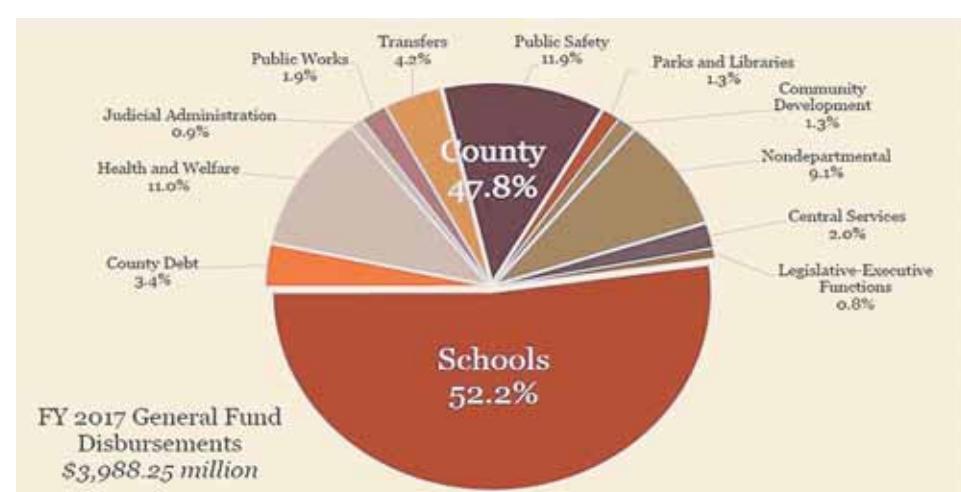
The projected value of each penny is \$23.3 million to the county, Long said.

"At the current real estate tax rate, revenue growth is insufficient to fund all of our priorities," Long told the Board of Supervisors.

But even with the increase, he warned, there are "many unmet needs and investment requirements that remain unfunded."

Each member of the Board of Supervisors will hold local community dialogues in their respective districts; then the board will hold public hearings on the budget from April 5-7.

The board will adopt the final budget on April 26.



**More than 50 percent of Fairfax County's \$3.988 billion budget will be transferred to Fairfax County Public Schools, \$68 million less than FCPS requested.**

**THE FEUD** resumed between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors before Long's speech even concluded, with his proposed budget falling \$68 million short of what FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza

says is needed.

"We are dismayed that Fairfax County Executive Ed Long has ignored the pleas of

SEE COUNTY BUDGET, PAGE 11



Hundreds of parents and community supporters turned out to spread the message "Invest in Kids" after an advertised Fairfax County budget announced Feb. 16 leaves the public schools system around \$68 million short of its requested transfer.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION  
Parents and children held up homemade signs urging support for full funding of Fairfax County Public Schools' FY 2017 budget as adopted by the School Board.

## Parents, Community Supporters Rally to 'Invest in Kids'

By TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**E**motional independent outbursts and communal chants of "Fund our schools" and "Invest in kids" echoed through the grand amphitheater just beyond the entrance to the Fairfax County Government Center.

The same day Fairfax County Executive Ed Long announced his proposal for a nearly \$4 billion county budget at the Board of Supervisors morning meeting,

school advocacy groups including IamFCPS, the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax FLAGS and Fairfax Arts Coalition for Education, organized a rally in the evening calling for the supervisors to fully fund the FY 2017 budget adopted by the School Board.

That budget, a \$121.4 million increase over the previous year, represents not only a 6.7 percent increase in transfer from the county, but also enables Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza to steer the school system forward with no additional cuts to programs

or services.

Though Garza won't formally present her budget to the supervisors until early April, Long's \$3.988 billion proposed budget falls short of the current requested transfer to the school system by nearly \$68 million.

"This is not good enough," said Fairfax Education Association president Kimberly Adams. "Our children are worth more, our community is worth more, and Fairfax is willing to invest a few cents more to make sure our next generation has a bright future."

Adams was one of several speakers scheduled to speak who also included Debbie Kilpatrick, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs; Shirley Ginwright, president of the Fairfax County NAACP; and Garza.

Several members of the Fairfax County School Board were in attendance, as well as Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

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# NEWS

## Community: 'Invest in Kids'

FROM PAGE 4

Bulova, whose introduction was met with lively cheering, attempted to reassure the audience that the budget process is just beginning, and requires public input and communication.

"We're hearing that communication here tonight," Bulova said. "Education is our number one priority, but we have to look at the budget holistically."

Bulova echoed the earlier remarks from Ginwright that "education from the top makes us sure to have an educated community" and added that this is just "the beginning of the budget process, we have to strike the right balance and make sure our children have what they need to succeed."

McLean High School senior Emily Robinson, who took credit for creating the viral hashtag #SaveFCPS, agreed that "fully funding public schools shouldn't just be a requirement of governing bodies, it should be the foremost priority.

"I fear for the students who will be in Fairfax County after me," she said.

Sarah Mattingly was School Board member Sandy Evans' (Mason District) appointee to the superintendent's budget task force that met to run the numbers for possible cuts prior to the formation of the school system's next budget.

She explained to the audience that despite the fact she and her husband don't even have children in Fairfax County Public Schools, "nothing is more important for us to do as taxpayers, property owners, or residents, than help children.

"I'm not here for my property values," Mattingly continued, "they'll be just fine on their own. Today was disappointing, but it's not over."

For more information from Fairfax County Public Schools on its FY 2017 budget, visit [www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml).

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– Chuck W.

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– Dr. Jennifer (PhD)

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# OPINION

# Bad Bills

From pressing for use of a barbaric form of execution, the electric chair, to codifying discrimination, to stripping localities of the major tool for ensuring infrastructure is in place for new development, to hiding more and more critical public information from the public, the Virginia General Assembly is poised to do harm to the Commonwealth. (We'll look at good bills in a future editorial.)

Here are bills that have passed either the House or Senate by crossover, and important bills that were killed, in no particular order. This is by no means a complete list.

**HB815**, Electric Chair, passed the House 62-33, brings back the electric chair, providing that if lethal injection is not available as a method of execution, electrocution shall be used instead and vice versa.

**SB552** creates secret police departments, and moves in exactly the wrong direction. Provides that the names and training records of law-enforcement officers and fire marshals shall be considered personnel records and excluded from mandatory disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Passed 25-15.

**SB549/HB770** on Proffers, uses a megaton bomb to tie localities' use of proffers to help pay for infrastructure needs with new development when what was needed was a study of flyswatters to address specific limited

abuses.

**HB773/SB41** - Codifies discrimination, prevents the state government from taking any action against a person or organization that discriminates based on a sincerely held religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman.

**Sanctuary bills:** **SB705** Makes "sanctuary cities" liable for "full amount of any personal injury or property damage caused by an illegal alien within such locality." **SB270** The General

Assembly shall reduce state funding to the extent permitted by state and federal law to any locality found to be a "sanctuary city."

Senate killed several bills on title loan oversight, even after investigative reporting showed interest charges exceeding 200 percent, bait and switch tactics and many poor Virginians losing their cars.

**HB 2** - No "right to breathe." Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to receive approval from the General Assembly for a state implementation plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants prior to submitting the plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**HB 1090** - Defunds Planned Parenthood

**HB 143** allows high proof grain alcohol sales.

**HB 560** - Makes it more difficult to convict someone of brandishing a firearm by requiring

ing proof that a person pointing, holding or brandishing a firearm or similar weapons had the intent to induce fear in the mind of another.

**HB 766** - Allows any protective order to be used as a de facto concealed carry permit, without requiring the holder to receive any training in the safe handling of a firearm, or show any proficiency with a firearm. Advocates for victims of domestic violence say what is needed is to remove weapons from such situations.

**Killed SB67**, would have added discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to the Virginia Fair Housing Law as an unlawful housing practice.

**Killed SB12**, would have prohibited discrimination in public employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Killed bills** that would have required notification of oil spills.

Outlawed living wage requirements for contractors of local government.

**HB 4** Anti-union, proposed constitutional amendment putting Right to Work in the constitution.

**HB 3** - Charter Schools Constitutional Amendment - removes local control over local schools and spending, doesn't belong in the constitution.

— MARY KIMM

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## Education as the Priority

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

funding (<https://youtu.be/Kcsab0wwkl4>).



All the important bills the General Assembly considered in the first half of its annual session pale in comparison to the most significant action it will take this week in adopting a \$100 billion budget for the biennium. Passing laws is very important, but decisions on how to spend the taxpayers' dollars may have the greatest impact on the largest number of people.

My constituents have made clear to me that their top priority for the budget is education funding; the Governor had the same priority in preparing his budget. The House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees will be making their decisions on spending very soon. Last week I spoke on the floor of the House of Delegates encouraging the Appropriations Committee to give priority to education

### COMMENTARY

State K-12 funding in FY 2016 remains below the FY 2009 level. The Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) found that Virginia's local governments shoulder the highest share of K-12 spending in the Southeast region. Virginia received an "F" for the fairness of the state's funding distribution in a recent review by Rutgers University. The report cites Virginia, alongside Alabama and Missouri, as the only states that did poorly on all four measures of the fairness of the state's education funding.

As I told the House last week in my speech, we need to do more than just increase spending. We need to reverse the policy decisions that have been made over the past decade that have created a systemic problem for our educa-

tional funding. When the people of Virginia added to the State Constitution a provision for public education in 1971, the General Assembly went about a process of identifying Standards of Quality (SOQ) to carry out that provision. Education was viewed as a partnership between state

and local government—a 50-50 proposition with the state picking up half the costs. In recent years there has been a steady shift of costs from the state to the local governments. Our 50-50 partnership has shifted to local governments having to pick up 56 percent of education costs—about \$3.6 billion beyond their required match.

My plea to the Appropriations Committee was that they reverse the policy retreats that have been taken and move the state back into an equal partnership with localities.

There are a dozen policy

changes involved, including capping funding for support positions at an unreasonable level costing localities three quarters of a billion dollars; eliminating equipment and other items from SOQ costing a quarter billion dollars, including a \$0 value in linear weighted average calculation costing \$80 million, and eliminating school construction grants of \$55 million.

The cost to compete factor for Northern Virginia has been excluded in recent years.

The shift in policy by the General Assembly did not mean that the costs disappeared. School divisions still incurred the expenses but had to have their local property taxpayers pay the bill.

With the up-tick we have seen in the economy it is time that the state does its part to help localities build public school systems capable of supporting the New Economy. My thanks to all the citizen advocates who are working so hard for full funding of our schools.

# NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left — Phil Sclafani (JBG), Kelly Miller (JBG), Matt Valentini (JBG), Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Ellen Graves (Reston Association), Greg Trimmer (JBG), Alex Robbins, representative for U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Mark Ingrao (Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce), Lee Quill (Cunningham Quill), Leon Blondin (Balfour Beatty) and Shane Omar (JBG).

## Breaking Ground for New Community at Reston Heights

**Walkable residential, retail will span eight acres near future Metro.**

The JBG Companies broke ground on VY, a 385-unit apartment community—along with 89,000 square feet of retail—in this next phase of the mixed-use neighborhood at Reston Heights.

The 483,000-square-foot mixed-use VY is a continuation of JBG's Reston Heights district, which includes several existing properties on Sunrise Valley Drive. This new phase of development will create a pedestrian-friendly, well-defined neighborhood on the south side of the Dulles Toll Road. JBG is leveraging their well-known placemaking expertise to create active community spaces integrated throughout walkable retail, including a public plaza lined with outdoor dining, a play area and an amphitheater for

programmed events. Future phases at Reston Heights could include an additional 375,000 square feet of mixed-use space.

"Reston continues to be a thriving submarket, and JBG is pleased to be expanding our strong presence here," said Principal Greg Trimmer. "VY at Reston Heights will be an active destination with social public spaces, new living options, and new shopping and dining for all of Reston."

In addition to being near the future Reston Town Center Metro and the Wiehle Avenue Metro station on the Silver Line, VY is a 10-minute drive from Dulles International Airport.

JBG is the single largest real estate owner in Reston with properties at all three planned Metro stations, including two hotels, seven office buildings and several hundred residential units—a significant local portfolio of more than 2 million square feet in Reston.

For more information, visit [JBG.com](#) or find them on Twitter @TheJBGCompanies and Facebook at [facebook.com/TheJBGCompanies](#).

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- 3/9/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
- 3/16/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 3/23/2016..Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
- FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

### APRIL

- 4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
- Easter Sunday is March 27
- 4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes
- 4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout
- 4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I
- 4/27/2016.....Spring Outlook 2016

### MAY

- 5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout
- 5/4/2016.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II
- 5/4/2016.....Wellbeing
- Mother's Day is May 8

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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

## PET CONNECTION

### Smokey the Toy Poodle of Reston

We have a 10-year-old toy poodle by the name of Smokey. He is the smartest, nicest dog you'll ever meet. Our neighbors agree. We raised Smokey to be a hunting dog; starting with little lizards when we lived in Florida. When we moved back to Virginia, he started chasing chipmunks, squirrels and deer. Smokey is always outside, always walking, always chasing something. When he sees one of the neighbors or another dog, his tail starts wagging, he's happy and he goes to everyone and says hi. When the kids in the neighborhood are in the street playing and Smokey is walking by, the kids stop whatever they're doing and run to Smokey just to pet him. He brings happiness to everyone and only wants love in return. Which he gets.

When he wants to go outside, he'll come up to me and if I'm watching TV or reading a book, he'll tap me on the shoulder or on the leg and let me know that he wants to go outside. He's very very smart and he's very very loving.

When I get to the Metro station in Reston after work, I text my wife and when Smokey hears the ding of the text; he goes up to the window to look for me. Sometimes, my wife lets him out and he sits outside waiting for me to come home. When I drive up, he runs up to me and licks me all over my face, jumps up and down and rolls over to get his belly rubbed. He follows this routine every single day, rain or shine.

—BILL WOLOCH, RESTON

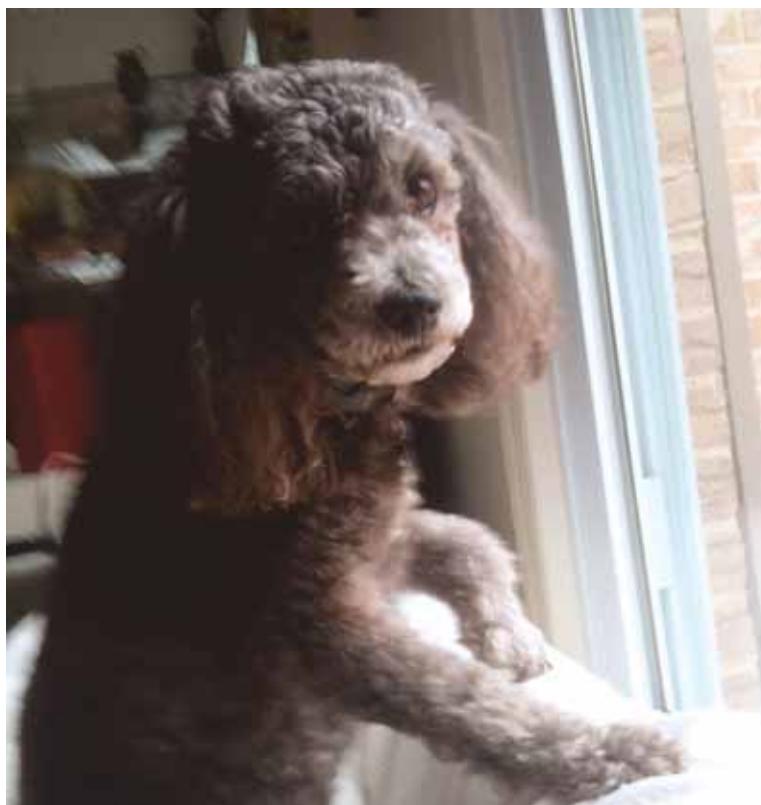


PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Smokey is always happy to meet new people and animals, including horses.



Smokey, the toy poodle, is a really good looking dog.



Smokey waiting for Bill Woloch to come from the Reston metro station.



Smokey knows that chipmunks hide in drain pipes. He uses his paws to tap the drain pipe and when the chipmunk runs out he chases and catches them. He's pretty fast for a 10-year-old.

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER WALTER/THE CONNECTION

The Feline Foundation of Greater Washington president Laura Goodman clips Grace's claws prior to the adoption fair on Feb 21.

### Finding That 'Special Someone' at Lake Anne

#### Reston adoption fair matches cats, families.

BY JENNIFER WALTER  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Feb. 21, the Feline Foundation of Greater Washington (FFGW) arranged chairs, tables and cages in preparation for their monthly Reston cat adoption fair in the Just Cats Clinic at Lake Anne.

FFGW is a volunteer organization, funded by donations, that works to get cats from around the D.C. area adopted. The group also holds weekly adoption fairs on the third Sunday of every month from 1-3

p.m. in Reston and every Sunday from noon-3 p.m. in a PetSmart in Leesburg.

Laura Goodman, the foundation's president and one of its founders, fell in love with cats in what she considers to be late in life.

"I was allergic to cats until I was in my late 20s. When I discovered I was not, friends forced them on me from every direction and I was very resistant," Goodman said. "Haley, my first cat, came to my doorstep in 1992. I started to cat rescue because I wanted to give people what Haley had given me."

Selma Caal came to the Reston fair after losing her cat, Obi Wan Kenobi, of 12 years.

"That cat was my little companion. He was just such an emotional support," Caal said. "My daughter doesn't know what life is like without a cat and I think our house is

lonely without one. We're looking for a new companion, not to replace Obi Wan, but to have that again."

Caal spent some time with four 9-month-old kittens, Mewli, Spike, Evie and Mewmew. The foundation hopes to adopt the kittens in pairs, so that they can maintain their close relationships. Two other kittens from the litter have already been adopted.

FFGW also provides fostering and pays for veterinary services for cats in their care.

They take in stray and shelter cats that are considered marginally adoptable.

"When I first started, municipal shelters and private charities were very suspicious of each other. Euthanasia was the preferable option to trusting cats with a private rescue," Goodman said. "In the D.C. area, there has been a complete

shift."

Shelters rescues of feral cats have some advantages, such as the cat already being socialized. In many cases, the cats survive to that point because they did well and were friendly in the stressful shelter environments.

The downsides are that the cats are often considered slim adoption possibilities due to their age or health.

"The Feline Foundation has always had a soft spot for the broken ones. The harder and more heartbreaking the case, the faster we run and the more we open our arms."

The next adoption fair at Lake Anne will be on March 20. FFGW is also searching for foster home to care for cats until adoption in the Reston area. For more information see <http://www.ffgw.org>.



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### Lucy Exploring Reston Trails

Lucy enjoying one of the many trails around Reston this past fall. Lucy is a people-loving 9-year-old Golden Retriever owned by the Springfield family of Reston.

PHOTO  
CONTRIBUTED

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[FFGW.org](http://FFGW.org)



**The Feline Foundation  
OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC.**

RESTON CONNECTION ♦ FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 1, 2016 ♦ 9

# SPORTS



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Oakton girls' basketball team won its third consecutive Conference 5 championship on Friday.

## Oakton Girls' Basketball Wins Conference 5 Championship

### Cougars outscore Herndon 17-0 in opening quarter.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**F**red Priester tried to exude a positive vibe prior to the Conference 5 tournament championship game against Herndon on Friday night, but an unusually quiet bus ride to Chantilly High School had the veteran Oakton girls' basketball coach unsure of what to expect from his undefeated team.

While Priester experienced pre-game nerves, the Cougars quickly showed their level of play would be no cause for concern.

Oakton opened the game with a 17-0 run and cruised to a 67-45 victory on Feb. 19, capturing its third consecutive conference title and 11th in the last 12 seasons.

The Cougars knocked down five 3-pointers in the opening quarter, including two each by senior Alex Marquis and junior Maddie Royle. At the defensive end, Oakton, the tournament's top seed, held No. 2 Herndon scoreless for more than 10 minutes before a bucket by Hornet forward Sabrina Tolbert with 5:52 remaining in the second quarter cut the Cougar lead to 17-2.

"We came out really hot; I was not sure if we would," Priester said. "We were very, very quiet on the bus — this is not a quiet group. They were very quiet on the bus, so I didn't know. Actually, I was a little nervous myself, but I was trying to [be positive]."

What was the reason behind the Cougars' silent bus ride?

"I think we were all just trying to get in the zone," said Marquis, the Conference 5 Player of the Year.

"We usually don't play early games, so we were all trying to rest a little bit since we didn't have that time we normally do after school."

Friday's Oakton/Herndon contest was part of a conference championship doubleheader and tipped off at 6 p.m. The early start didn't slow down the Cougars, who knocked down seven 3-pointers in the first half and 11 for the game.

"We came out ready to play," Royle said, "and we showed it."

Priester, the conference Coach of the Year, said there were times he wasn't pleased with Oakton's shot selection, but he relaxed his requirements during the Cougars' hot-handed first quarter.

"We have some kids that can shoot the 3, but the thing is, I'm constantly telling them, 'Look, you don't have to shoot it on the first touch,'" Priester said. "But they were so hot I backed off of that."

Royle, a 6-foot-1 forward and first-team all-conference selection, buried four 3-pointers and finished with 24 points and seven rebounds. Her final 3 of the evening gave Oakton a 40-22 lead with 4:28 remaining in the third quarter.

"She's got so much talent," Priester said. "I was reluctant to even give her a rest tonight because she was doing so well."

Junior forward Delaney Connolly finished with a double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. Connolly, a first-team all-conference selection, made a trio of 3-pointers.

Marquis scored 15 points and hit three from behind the arc.

Junior guard Kailyn Fee also knocked down a 3-pointer for Oakton.

Junior guard Indeya Sanders led Herndon with 14 points. Sophomore guard Devyne Newman finished with 11 points and junior guard Janiece Loney added eight.



VIDEO SCREENSHOT

**Oakton junior Maddie Royle cuts off a piece of the net after the Cougars won the Conference 5 championship on Friday.**



PHOTOS BY ED LULL

**Senior Anas Fain successfully defended his regional title in the 55 meter hurdles.**

## South Lakes Boys Finish Second, Girls Break School Record at Region

Victories in the hurdle events, two school records, a second place team finish and qualifying all six relay teams for the states were the highlights of the South Lakes High School indoor track and field team at the 6A North Region Championship Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md.

The boys finished second in the 26-team field while the girls were sixth. The top six finishers in each event earned a spot in next weekend's 6A State Championship Feb. 26-27 in Hampton, Va.

Senior Anas Fain successfully defended his regional title in the 55 meter hurdles in winning the event in 7.63, a personal best. He also teamed with seniors Alex Rudison, Eric Kirlew and Timiebi Ogobri for second in the 4x200 meter relay (1:33.79). Ogobri was fourth in the 55 meters (6.65 prelims, 6.66 finals) and Kirlew finished fourth in the triple jump (43-11.25) followed by senior Skander Ballard (43-09.00).

The triple jump was one of three individual events Ballard had state meet qualifying finishes. He was third in the 300 meters (35.85) and fourth in

the 500 meters (1:06.24). Senior Nikolai Waite was fourth in the 500 (1:08.76). Ballard, Waite and seniors Connor Smith and John LeBerre finished second in the 4x400 meter relay with a 3:27.54.

LeBerre was also fourth in the 100 meters (2:35.96) and anchored the 4x800 meter relay team of Smith and juniors Peter Sepulveda and Jack Watkins to fourth in that event (8:19.13).

Junior Devyn Jones is also a region champion, winning the 55 hurdles in 8.40. Junior Nikayla Hoyte and sophomore Olivia Beckner advanced to states in individual events with school-record breaking performances:

Hoyte ran a 7.28 in the preliminaries of the 55 meters and advance to the finals, where she finished sixth (7.35). The previous record of 7.31 was set by Lachelle Wallace during the 2008-2009 season.

Beckner finished third in the 1,000 meter run with a time of 2:58.47 breaking the school record of 2:59.64 set by Anne Evans during the 1987-1988 season. Senior Golden Kumi-Darfour was fourth with a 2:58.65.



**Junior Devyn Jones is a region champion, winning the 55 hurdles in 8.40.**

# County Budget Presented

FROM PAGE 4

parents, students, employees and community members to fully fund Fairfax County Public Schools' budget in FY 2017," said School Board president Pat Hynes in an emailed statement. "Despite calling for a tax increase, Mr. Long's budget signals no increase to the schools above last year's budget guidance of three percent while increasing the county's budget by a greater percentage. ... This news means that, unless the Board of Supervisors provides for a funding increase above Mr. Long's recommendation, Fairfax County Public Schools will once again have to make damaging budget cuts that will reduce educational opportunities for our children."

McKay, head of the budget committee, immediately countered after the Board of Supervisors hearing. He had already read words from various school officials.

"Expressing to people somehow that the Board of Supervisors is cutting the school budget which was again expressed in writing today," said McKay, "is just technically not true."

"Let's talk about how we can better meet the school's needs but let's be truthful in presenting the facts to people about what is actually happening. While the county has dramatically increased education funding every year that I've been on board, the state has fallen further and further behind."

"There is a point in time in which we have to lobby the state to fix that problem," he said.

The board has increased the funding of schools by \$230 million since FY 2008, he said during the presentation. "Clearly this budget doesn't meet the transfer request of the schools and we need to do something to address that."

**VIRGINIA RANKS** in the top ten in both per capita and median household income but in the bottom 10 for state funding of public education, according to county documents.

"As the county has been saying for many years, the state is not meeting its share of funding for K-12 education in Fairfax County," Long said.

"That puts a tremendous strain on other parts of our budget when the state doesn't come through," Long said.

"That's an awful lot for our citizens to

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION



**County Executive Ed Long balanced this year's proposed budget with a three-cent increase on real estate, but recommends a four-cent increase.**

bear," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) of the proposed tax increase. "I'm hoping we can do something with our community to take the burden off the backs of our taxpayers."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) called it a "dark and dreary and ugly day."

"We are getting squeezed by national economic forces that are the worst in our lifetimes," he said. "This is where it comes to roost. Right here."

"We're going to have to get out a pencil and figure out where we can find some savings," said Cook. "Four pennies is nothing I can swallow."

"I'm not gloomy," said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). "Four cents sounds like an awful lot, but I can tell you I feel stronger in the way that we can support the schools, and the ways we can support the community."

The countywide average assessment for all homes is \$527,648, and the owner of a home valued that much would see \$304 increase in property taxes. The county average assessment for a single family house is \$632,507. Assessments vary by location. In Great Falls, the average is \$1,055,249. In Centreville, the average is \$385,089.

**CRITICAL ITEMS** included in the budget, according to Long: FCPS operating increase of three percent; FCPS infrastructure investment; improvements in county employee compensation; investments in public safety including increased staffing, beginning implementation of Ad Hoc Police Commission recommendations and Diversion First,



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

**The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt the FY 2017 Budget on April 26. Chairman Sharon Bulova is scheduled to advertise the FY 2017 tax rate on March 1.**

## Budget Town Hall Meetings

### Mount Vernon District Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m.  
Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria

### Sully District / Sully District Council Budget Meeting

Monday, March 7, 7 p.m.  
Rocky Run Middle School - "Little Theatre"  
- 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly

### Providence District Budget Council Budget Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.  
Providence Community Center - 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax - Multi-Purpose Room 2

### Mason District Budget Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 7 p.m.  
Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale - Main Community Room

### Springfield District Budget Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m.  
West Springfield Government Center - 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield - Community Room

staffing for new police station in South County; spending on Human Services, including full funding for this year's intellectual disability graduates.

Several issues contribute to the revenue challenges, Long said.

❖ The local economy underperformed the national economy from 2011 - 2014.

❖ High office vacancy rate in the county - over 20 million square feet vacant out of 116.5 million square feet. As of mid-year 2015, direct office vacancy rate was 16.5 percent, highest since 1991, when it was 16.8 percent.

❖ Local real estate market is

underperforming the nation, so county's FY 2017 real estate tax growth lower than anticipated.

But "looking forward," Long said, "there's reasons for optimism. I'm optimistic about our local economy."

The board adopted the Economic Strategic Plan, he said.

"The Silver Line is going ahead full steam and we are going to see that opening up in 2019-2020. That gives reason for optimism," he said.

"And all the rezoning in Tysons and Reston, I'm extremely optimistic we are going to grow our commercial base."

# NEWS

## Garage Fire Damages Reston Townhouse

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue responded to a fire on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 18 that started in the garage of a townhouse in the 11800 block of Mediterranean Court in Reston. No injuries were reported. Officials are investigating the cause of the fire.



Captain John Nimiec, of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, comforts Judy Kilmartin, whose house was damaged by fire on Feb. 18 in Reston.



Judy Kilmartin's and her husband Cal Ellis' house on Mediterranean Court in Reston caught fire on Thursday afternoon on Feb. 18

PHOTOS BY  
TOBY MARQUEZ  
STUDIO M INC



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left above: Lion Steve Reber, Program Chairman; Katherine Gail Breza, Park View High School, Puyang Xue, St. Andrews Episcopal School; Lauren Christina Gold, Heritage High School; Rohan Parikh, Riverside High School; Joha Kim, Woodson High School; Elizabeth Ann George, Dominion High School; Victoria Graf, Williamsburg Middle School; Charlotte Jane Maskelony, Washington Lee High School; Hana Wang, Riverbend Middle School; Carlos Olivares, Potomac Falls High School, Keira Noelle Konson, Dominion Christian School; Ethan Morad, Herndon Middle School; Lion Anne Ryan, Club President; Antara Hebbar, Kilmer Middle School; McKenna Patrice Martinez.

## Reston Lions Honor Bland Contest Winners

Winners of the James A. Bland Music Competition, co-sponsored by the Reston Lions Club and the Reston Community Center, held on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Reston Community Center were as follows: Vocal competition: Elisabeth

Ann George, first place; Lauren Christina Gold, second place; and McKenna Patrice Martinez, third place. Instrument competition: Victoria Graf, first place; Hana Wang, second place; and Ethan Morad, third place. First place winners received \$100 and are eligible

to compete in the Virginia Regional, the District and the State competitions for additional awards. Second place winners received \$75 and third place winners received \$50. Judges were Lydia Kriso, Gretel Von Pischke, Katie Katinas and Leslie Luxemburg.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Piano soloist Dr. Bora Lee performs Schumann Ravel and Brahms on Friday, Feb. 26 at United Christian Parish of Reston.

## CALENDAR

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

"Uses of Stone in the Landscape." 1-4 p.m. Nature House, Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. [www.therestongardenclub.org](http://therestongardenclub.org).

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

#### Meet me at the Movies - Senior Movie Day.

10 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. Reston Association presents "The Intern." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information: [Ashleigh@reston.org](mailto:Ashleigh@reston.org), 703-435-6530. [reston.org](http://reston.org).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 4

**Galactic Gala.** 6 p.m. Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Fundraising event supporting Reston schools and End Polio Now by the Rotary Club of Reston. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, go to <http://restonrotary.org>. [restonrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:restonrotaryclub@gmail.com).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 5

**Family Day at GRACE.** Noon-3 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., 103, Reston. In conjunction with exhibit GRACE Art: Cultivating a Creative Community. Light refreshments. Free. [www.restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org). 703-471-9242.

**Beginning Couponing.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Freebies and discount savings coupons are all around us. Learn how to find the best deals and maximize your family budget using coupons. Adults. Register at 703-689-2700.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 9

**Jazzart Concert: Victor Haskins Trio.** 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. world-class trumpet and electronic wind instrument player. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks provided; wine and beer for suggested donations. \$15. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://artspaceherndon.com).

<cal1>Saturday/March 12  
**Winter Night-Time Campfire.** 6:30 a.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Discover the night sky through hands on activities and storytelling. Families can come early and picnic or toast hotdogs. Bring a toasting stick, blanket and flashlight. Smores provided. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$8, \$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/>.

**Lucky Leprechaun 5K.** 8:30 a.m.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 1

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

# CALENDAR



**"Crimes of the Heart"** plays at NextStop Theatre in Herndon, Feb. 25-March 20.

FROM PAGE 12  
Reston Town Center, 11911 Democracy Drive, Reston. Run like you've got the luck of the Irish on your side. Enjoy a fun-filled celebration at the finish line. <http://www.prraces.com/luckyleprechaun/>.

**Wine Tasting.** 3-5 p.m. Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St. #106, Reston. Sample ten wines and enjoy an appetizer or pizza of your choice. \$35. Tax and gratuity not included. Reservations at 703-437-5544. [banquets.reston@ilfo.com](mailto:banquets.reston@ilfo.com).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 13

**Women's Choral Festival.** 4-6 p.m. Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Capital Harmonia hosts its first Celebration of Women Choral Festival to commemorate Women's History Month offering music featuring Women From Stage and Screen and Songs of Hope and Courage, joined by the Women's Chorus of South Lakes High School. Free, donations encouraged. [www.capitalharmonia.org](http://www.capitalharmonia.org). 703-989-4007.

**Choral Splendor II: Music for Grand Organ and Chorus.** 4 p.m. Saint Luke Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Reston Chorale presents an afternoon of music for grand organ and chorus, featuring Organists Paul Skevington and Tordis Fahringer performing Charles-Marie Widor's magnificent Mass for two choirs and two organs. The concert will also include works by Dupré, Messiaen and Sweelinck. \$25-\$30. [www.restonchorale.org](http://restonchorale.org).

**NoVa Mini Maker Faire.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Collection of Northern Virginia tech enthusiasts, engineers, woodworkers, artists, and craftspeople. Opportunity for kids to learn to make things. <http://makerfairenova.com>.

**Ice Breaker 5K.** 7:45 a.m. 200 Spring St., Herndon. <http://www.active.com/herndon-va/running/distance-running-races/herndon-ice-breaker-5k-2016>.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Sunday School: preschool - grade 2  
Music: grades 3 - 7  
10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6  
Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service  
Nursery care provided at 9:00 a.m. service  
The Rev. James Papile, Rector  
The Rev. Laura Cochran  
**703-437-6530**  
[www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org)  
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

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**Saturday, March 5, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Falls Church High School**  
**7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church**



For more information or ADA accommodations, call the Department of Code Compliance, 703-324-1300, TTY 711.

## FAITH NOTES

*Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.*

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**St. Anne's Episcopal Church**, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Morning prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or [www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org).

**Adult Sunday school** will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington** and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha're Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. [ShalomDC.org](http://ShalomDC.org).

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region

## 3rd Annual Casino Night

**Saturday, March 12, 2016**  
**7:00 - 11:00 pm**  
**The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner\***

### Tickets

\$100 per person  
\$180 per couple

Enjoy:

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Use your funny money winnings to enter to win fabulous prizes.  
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[www.bgcgw.org/fairfax](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax)  
For tickets and sponsorship information

\* Special \$119 overnight room rate available

## A Further Explanation



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though last week's column, "One Hundred Pills," ostensibly was about the pill count of my most recent prescription and my interpretation of its meaning, the underlying point of the column which I might have failed to clearly mention was: cancer and the effect it has on your thinking; consciously, sub-consciously, and probably even unconsciously as well. If I had not been diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: stage IV, non-small, cell lung cancer (NSCLC), would I even have heard how many pills were in that bottle, or considered at all the numerical impact on my life, and that life's expectancy? Moreover, would I have been the least bit concerned with pharmacy/prescription procedures, medical or otherwise? And finally, would I have stumbled emotionally because of any of it? I'll be presumptuously self-assured and answer all of these previous questions: The answer would be a resounding "No."

And the cause of all these questions and the effect on the answers is cancer. To say cancer is a difference-maker is an insult to all difference-makers. Because cancer is insidious, and often, as evidenced in last week's column, a life-changer both physically and mentally, its effects rear their ugly head when you might not expect it. All I did was pick up a prescription but since cancer is in charge, I went off on a tangent of anxiety. But, and this is the point – perhaps lost in last week's column, which I am now focusing on in this week's column: you can't help yourself. Whether or not you admit to or acquiesce to cancer's control, it does take over. In effect, your brain is rewired, figuratively speaking. You simply don't think, consider, prioritize, react, etc., as you did prior to your diagnosis. It's almost as if you were struck by lightning; it's a jolt, emotionally, and you'll never be the same.

Sure, on the outside (to people looking at you), everything may appear normal (if you're amazingly lucky), but on the inside, especially in your head/brain, the world, your place in it and your behavior while being there has taken a turn. Not necessarily for the worse, but definitely for the different. Oddly enough, the changes are not so subtle that you don't notice them or won't acknowledge them or can't articulate them. In my experience, I notice/acknowledge and articulate them. However, I am hard-pressed to do much about them. It's not as if I've become an inconsiderate, selfish, intolerant, uncaring and self-indulgent a--hole (different than I'd like to think I was/mostly still am), but, and I'm not to proud to admit this: I do have my moments. And when I do, I blame the cancer. As I asked my oncologist one day about my hair turning gray seemingly overnight, could I blame the cancer? He quickly responded: "You can blame the cancer for anything you want." And so I have, occasionally.

Not that I have taken his statement to heart or embraced it as a regular excuse, but cancer does seem to have its way. And though I am well aware of its tentacles and subliminal-almost ties that regularly bind, I am still cognizant of who I am and who I want to be. Nevertheless, author Siddhartha Mukherjee didn't title his book about cancer (and PBS didn't likewise title its miniseries): "Cancer, The Emperor of All Maladies" because cancer is kind and gentle and benign. Hardly. Cancer is none of these characterizations. And what's worse, it changes people; at least it's changed me, and not always for the better.

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

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Mortons of Chicago Reston, LLC trading as Mortons of Chicago, 11951 Freedom Dr, Reston, VA 20190. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Combined MB Restaurant/MB Caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Steven L. Scheinthal, Vice President

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The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

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The Mount Vernon Gazette

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#### WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/FEB. 24-25

**Christ Presbyterian Preschool Open House.** 10-11 a.m. Christ Presbyterian Preschool, 12410 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Open house tours for the current school year and 2016-17. www.christpresbyterianpreschool.com. 703-691-9120.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 25

**Food Packing Event.** 10 a.m. Dominion Virginia Power, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites community members to help pack food for the Weekend Food for Kids program which benefits 1500 schoolchildren who receive reduced-price meals during the week. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. if you would like to help with setup. Event contact: karenamster@aol.com.

**Dollars and Sense.** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A new monthly book discussion group that focuses on business leaders and markets. Adults. 703-689-2700.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 27

**Racing to Justice: Achieving Social Equity in our Community.** 3 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Featuring John A. Powell, director, UC Berkeley's Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. Free. Tickets required. 703-476-4500, press 3.

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 28

**Volunteer to Serve Dinner.** 5:30 p.m. North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Provide and serve dinner. Under the auspices of FACETS, in partnership with Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program. Sponsored by Congregation Beth Emeth. www.bethemeth.org.

#### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 9

**Ask the Doctor: Everything You Want to Know about Menopause.** Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dr. Farimah Farahani from Perfectly Female Women's Health Care will answer all your questions about this transitional phase in a woman's life. Light refreshments. Register at 703-689-2700.

**League of Women Voters-Reston “Election 2016.”** 7:30-9 p.m. Hunter Mill District Community Room B, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Expanding nonpartisan outreach to increase voter participation and civic engagement. Free. Open to men and women. 202-263-1311. www.lwv-fairfax.org.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**K-12 STEM Symposium.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Nysmith School, 13625 Eds Drive, Herndon. Includes exciting exhibits, inspiring speakers and panel experts who will highlight how vital it is to engage parents, students, teachers, corporate/government execs and nonprofit representatives in STEM education and careers. Free. www.stemsymposium.com.

#### TUESDAY/MAR. 22

**INOVA Blood Drive.** Noon-7 p.m. Besides Pavilion of Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Schedule appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration also available.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 26

**Habitat Heroes Project.** 10 a.m.-noon. Across the street from 11300 Stones Throw Drive. Oriental bittersweet is one of the most invasive and vigorous weeds in Reston. Please help us eradicate this aggressive vine and liberate our native plants. Meet at the asphalt path near the intersection of Fieldview Drive and Stones Throw Drive. Look for Reston Association truck. For information or to sign up, go to reston.org.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 2

**Nature House 5K Volunteers.** 7:30-9:30 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. The Walker Nature Center needs volunteers to help with the Nature House 5K. Volunteers for race marshals must attend an orientation on Friday, April 1 from 6-7 p.m. <http://bit.ly/NatureHouse5K>.

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