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Newspaper

Reston CONNECTION

The signage for the new pay-to-park system at Reston Town Center. Many residents oppose the change.

New in Reston: Live, Work, Pay

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Reston Residents Oppose
St. Johns Redevelopment

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Jazz and Blues Festival
Saturday at Lake Anne Plaza

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Live, Work, Pay

Pay-to-park system comes to Reston Town Center.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The slogan “Live, Work, Play” has long been associated with Reston, a community that takes well-deserved pride in offering a multitude of options for all three of those activities, but with Reston Town Center (RTC) gearing up to launch a pay-to-park system for the first time since opening its streets in 1990, some Restonians, and even some of their neighbors, have put a spin on the motto. “Now I think it’s more like ‘Live, Work and Pay. What is happening to Bob Simon’s beautiful dream of Reston?” asks Albert H. who lives in Oakton, but works in RTC.

To keep the record straight, Reston Town Center is actually a separate entity from the community that the late Robert E. Simon, the founder of Reston, brought to life in the 1960s. The RTC is owned and managed by Boston Properties, who have engaged Fallston Group, LLC, an executive advisory firm headquartered in Baltimore, to handle their communications on the contentious subject of paying to park in RTC.

Fallston Group founder and chief Executive Rob Weinhold had pointed to an increase in commuters using the town center’s garages before taking buses to the Wiehle-Reston Metro Station, as necessitating the change. In more recent statements and in an email for the Connection Newspapers, Kathy Walsh, Director of Marketing for Fallston Group added that commuter usage of the garages was only one factor for the pay-to-park plan, citing increased general usage and acknowledging that “paid parking and a mobile safety communications model was part of the original master plan at RTC.”

That may be, but many locals insist that they only recently heard about the plan, and quite a few are angry that, in their eyes, there has been little public opinion solicited. Suzanne Zurn, a Reston resident for 10 years, became aware of the plan in March, and felt so strongly about what she perceives to be a lack of communication or interest in public opinion by Boston Properties that she started a petition on the website Change.org to inform other RTC visitors and to oppose the change.

Boston Properties held one open community meeting in March, and Zurn attended, with the 5,000 signatures her petition had garnered by that time. “The meeting had to be moved to the Hyatt in Reston because public interest and anticipated attendance was so high,” said Zurn. She also said that the Boston Properties representatives promised additional meetings, “but that never happened.”

Fallston Group’s Walsh said she had not



attended the meeting and thus could not comment on any promised additional public events, but did report that Boston Properties have held “numerous meetings with hundreds of people, primarily retail and office tenants.” She says that the development owners “are listening” and that several policies were included to address issues brought up during those meetings, like free parking on weekends, signature event days and holidays, as well as an arrangement for free parking for RTC retail employees.

Free parking for some employees is certainly welcome, but doesn’t help temp employees who could be looking at \$10 or more per day to pay for their parking, or other RTC workers whose employers can’t or won’t be up their new parking tab.

IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, no one who has parked, or for that matter, walked its streets, could have failed to notice the information boards posted around the “urburb” (“urban suburb”) that is Reston Town Center, or the miles of electrical piping, cameras and green and red parking guidance lights that now decorate every floor of every garage there. Boston Properties describes the system as “truly state-of-the-art,” but requests as to the cost of the system have not been answered.

The system is designed to indicate where parking is available. Boston Properties says that a Facebook survey in 2015, and discussions with center tenants highlighted difficulty in finding a space without cruising several floors or multiple garages. Walsh says this feedback prompted the developers to add a “Find Your Car” feature to the system. Users can go to the Pay Station and input their vehicle information and a snapshot of the car taken when parked will ap-

pear – something that definitely worries Zurn, and many of the over 7,000 who have signed the petition to date.

On a Facebook site set up to “Keep Parking Free at Reston Town Center,” Laurie Dodd commented “Didn’t anyone realize that this machine is a stalker’s dream...to hunt down prey? They will know where women parked...and if she exited her vehicle alone.” Many of the comments expressed similar concern, since anyone can type in a license plate number and see the parking snapshot. But Walsh insists that the system is actually an added safety factor, saying that customers won’t have to spend time looking for their cars late at night in a garage. She referenced the fact that the “Park Assist Park Finder” technology has been used in more than 50 sites globally without incident. “Wow. 50 sites. Around the world. There’s a definitive study for you,” scoffed parking garage user Audra Arles. Arles and others were even more sceptical when they learned that the system was not live-monitored. “How can this be called a safety feature if no one is watching to help you in case of emergency? I could almost support this if it was like the CCTV systems so many European cities use. And then the information is deleted after the car exits, like with the carjacker driving!”

Walsh counters that installing the ParkRTC app, available for free from Apple or Google Play stores, gives the user access to another new app that RTC is implementing, called LiveSafeRTC, that will allow users to report problems and suspicious activity, to call for emergency assistance, and

even to request an escort to their vehicle.

LIKE IT OR NOT, seems like pay-to-park is coming, so potential users had best be prepared. The RTC website, www.restontowncenter.com has several pages and links dedicated to explaining the system, with FAQ’s covering the logistics, as well as the stated benefits. Parkers have a few options:

- * Download the ParkRTC app. Once a user is registered, they enter their parking zone, their vehicle information, the length of their intended stay, and preferred method of payment (either credit or debit card).

- * For those without a Smartphone, they can call 571-485-7790 to initiate a “parking session.”

- * Parkers can also initiate a session on the website www.ParkRTC.com. Length of stay can be remotely extended on this site, as well as through

the app.

- * Pay Stations will also be available at some of the garages and for street parking, which is simultaneously changing to the pay-to-park model. Pay stations on the street do not accept cash. The kiosks in the garages will take currency, but only for exact change. No refunds or change can be made.

Parking Fees

The fees for street parking are \$3 per hour, with a 2 hour limit. Garage parking will now cost \$2 per hour for the first 2 hours. 2-3 hours will cost \$5, \$6 for 3-4 hours, \$8 for 4-6 hours, \$10 for 6-10 hours, \$14 for 10-12 hours, and \$24 for 12-24 hours.

Walsh stated that the revenue from paid parking will be utilized to provide “world-class, facilities, family-oriented events, top brand attractions...and non-profit donations.” “I really think that

charging for parking will ultimately have a negative effect on the businesses in Town Center,” is petition-founder Zurn’s opinion. She worries that families like hers will stop dropping by for a little fun time and some window shopping, and a snack. Some of the businesses have already said they will give some form of parking validation a try via the parking app and onsite Bluetooth beacons. Bowtie Cinemas, Crunch Fitness, Jackson’s, CVS and restaurant/wine bar Barcelona are participating in the validation plan.

Other retailers may yet, but a canvas of many of the other retail and restaurant tenants only resulted in the instruction to “contact our corporate office.”

“I don’t know,” said Zurn. “I am not against any company making a profit, but I think there are other compromise solutions here, and I think the communication is really frustrating.” Zurn says she will continue to advocate to keep Reston parking free.

Ready or not, it’s time to pay to play at Reston Town Center.

Take One Action to Prevent Suicide

Suicide Prevention Week is Sept. 5-13, #MindsMatter

As school begins, we are accustomed to safety warnings. Slow down driving, watch for students along the roads, near schools and perhaps behaving unpredictably near intersections. Buckle seat belts. Wear bicycle helmets. Avoid distracted driving.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between 10 and 24 years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control, with 4,600 deaths a year, and 157,000 youth receiving emergency medical care for self-inflicted injuries. Overall, more than 42,000 Americans die by suicide each year.

Appropriately, Suicide Prevention Week is next week, Sept. 5-13, and the Connection is partnering with PRS CrisisLink to raise awareness about how to prevent suicide.

Risk factors for a suicide attempt include a history of depression or other mental illness, a history of previous suicide attempts, alcohol or drug abuse, stressful life event or loss, easy

access to lethal methods (firearms are the leading method of youth suicide), exposure to the suicidal behavior of others, and a family history of suicide. Young people who are LGBTQ are at higher risk.

Crisis Link was founded by volunteers in 1969 as the Northern Virginia Hotline, beginning as an evening hotline for Arlington teens. Within a year, hotline services were expanded to 24 hours a day to provide skilled, compassionate listening for people of all ages. The organization began serving individuals in crisis throughout the entire metropolitan Washington, D.C. region in 1970. In August of 2014, CrisisLink merged with PRS, Inc. Now named PRS CrisisLink, the program is able to provide services to more individuals than ever before.

In Fairfax County, where several high schools have mourned the suicide deaths of students, online interactive training is available to everyone about how to talk to a young person who might be depressed or considering suicide.

Fairfax County's Youth Suicide Prevention Training includes free online simulations that prepare educators and other adults to recognize when a young person is exhibiting signs of psychological distress, and to talk with the young person to be able to connect them with

Help Available

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appropriate support. Also available is a free online simulation for high school students to practice how to talk to a friend struggling with depression or psychological distress. Access to these programs is available by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/at-risk

We also can't let the discussion on gun violence add to the stigma of mental health illness. People with mental health issues are far more likely to be victims of violence that to perpetrate it. When the debate turns to a push and pull between advocating for gun control vs. advocating for broad suspicion of people with mental health concerns, the results are not benign.

We have to bring discussion of depression and other psychological distress into the light, and we must push back against the stigma that keeps many from getting life-saving help.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Does He Bite?

To the Editor:

Well, they're finally over! Suffering through the breathless NBC "coverage" of Olympic "sports," many of which few of us have ever heard of, involving Zika-virus and Rio-mugging avoidance tips, inane commentary, and tedious "up-close and personals" punctuated by the occasional showing of an actual event and immediate post-race interviews with "heroes" gasping for breath, I wondered about the origins of the ridiculous habit of winning athletes appearing to take a bite out of their medal before the cameras. Testing for 24-karat purity, perhaps? Teeth marks could potentially reduce the full tax deductibility of the value of an Olympic medal proposed by Senator "Chuck" Schumer — friend of underpaid athletes everywhere.

Gnawing away at trophies — where did this all begin? This metal-chomping is now almost as de rigueur as patented in-game hugging and slapping and weeping at the drop of a beach volleyball, say.

Harry Locock - sports fan
Reston

Protecting Our Families

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



In the week that I was in Chicago for the annual Legislative Summit of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), there was a record 100 people shot in the city in less than a week. According to data kept by the Chicago Tribune, there had been 2,514 shooting victims—about 800 more than at the same time last year. Between the Friday afternoon I had arrived and the next Thursday morning, at least 99 people were shot in the city—24 of them fatally. Among the wounded was a 10-year old boy who was shot in the back.

COMMENTARY

Although I was in the city, I had no direct or personal knowledge of what was going on. I was downtown in the McCormick Convention Center part of the city, and I saw no violence and heard no police sirens. What I knew came from reading the newspaper. The experience reminded me that although most of us fortunately live outside areas of violence, we can never be sure of when our sense of safety can be shattered and the next instance of gun violence can happen in or near our community.

Who would have thought that a record for mass murders would be set in Virginia in 2007 when 32 people were killed and 17 wounded on a college campus? That record was broken in 2016 in an Orlando, Fla., nightclub when a gunman killed 49 people and wounded 53. Mass murders that did not take place for most of our history are becoming too frequent. But beyond the mass mur-

ders there are more than 33,000 gun deaths and more than 130,000 people shot per year in this country.

According to the organization Americans for Responsible Solutions (smartgunlaws.org), Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than people in other developed countries like ours. They report that from 2005-2015 71 Americans were killed by terrorist attacks on U.S. soil while 301,797 were killed by gun violence during the same period. Their shocking statistics show that since the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012 a child under 12 has been killed by intentional or accidental gunfire every other day. More than 50 gun suicides occur on average every day in our country making guns the most common and lethal means of suicide.

We cannot let these numbers become the norm for our country nor can we let ourselves become desensitized to the public health menace that gun violence has become. That is why I and others participate in an End Gun Violence Vigil at the headquarters of the National Rifle Association (NRA) on the 14th of every month to keep in the public mind the role that gun manufacturers and others play with their campaign contributions and lobbying in defeating commonsense gun safety laws.

I hope that gun violence becomes a major issue in the current presidential and congressional campaigns. I will be introducing a universal background check bill in the next session of the General Assembly.

Your feedback is always welcomed: kenplum@aol.com.



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Reston Residents Oppose Apartment Redevelopment

180 residents sign petition opposing St. Johns development proposal in its current version.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

St. Johns Wood is a sprawling campus of nine three-story buildings that house 250 apartments on about 14 acres of land nestled in the woods off Center Harbor Rd. in Reston - and that is exactly how some residents of the complex, and many of their neighbors in surrounding clusters of apartments, townhomes and single family dwellings would like to see it stay. A group about 35-strong made their opinions known at the Reston Association (RA) Governance Committee meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 9, at the RA offices. "We don't usually get such a crowd at our meetings," acknowledged RA Vice President and committee member Michael Sanio. That's probably because this committee is not the arm of the association that generally deals with those sometimes "hot potato" topics and blood-pressure raising issues that are heard by the Covenants Committee and the Design Review Board (DRB). It was, in fact, the Reston DRB that approved the latest St. Johns Wood redevelopment plans offered by owner Bozzuto Development Group at their meeting on July 19.

RA CEO Cate Fulkerson, who was in attendance at Tuesday's meeting and serves as a non-voting member of the committee, did explain the role of the Governance Committee and its lack of direct influence over the topic to the citizens awaiting the start of the meeting. The Governance Committee's mission is about monitoring the association's strategic plans, designing and implementing leadership and orientation programs for new and existing boards members, and addressing the conduct of the board and its members.

SO WHY did so many of the objectors to the redevelopment plans descend on this particular meeting? "Because we need to be heard at every meeting," said Susanne Andersson-Tosado, who lives nearby and actually lived briefly at the apartments when relocating to Reston in 2007. Andersson-Tosado attended the July DRB meeting and says she was dismayed - and roused to action - when the plans were approved despite what she called "a room full of upset and angry citizens whose voices were ignored. Our comments were not even added into the minutes. I was told that my requests for an appeal before the DRB would not be considered until the final approval hearing because I was not at that time a registered Affected Party."

Andersson-Tosado has since registered herself as just such an Affected Party, and came to the Governance Committee meeting with her notes, copies of a letter she had sent to several members of the Reston Association and the DRB, to the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning and to Catherine Hudgins, the Hunter Mill District representative on the Fairfax



Susanne Andersson-Tosado speaks before the Reston Association Governance Committee. The Reston resident is leading a group that opposes the redevelopment plans of the St. Johns Wood apartment by owners Bozzuto Development Group. "The plans are not in keeping with the area. It's too dense, too large, and not of a design to blend into the neighbourhood," she declares.



St. John's Proposal - Bozzuto Development Group's Proposed Plan for the redevelopment of their apartment complex at 11500 Olde Tiverton Circle in Reston calls for 511 apartments versus the existing 250, as well as 51 townhomes.

County Board of Supervisors. She also brought along a petition with 180 names and comments from other citizens who oppose the project in its current version. "And those were just the people who signed on from July 21 - Aug. 9. We will have our say and our opinions will be added to the official records," said Andersson-Tosado. Committee members Sanio, Fulkerson, Secretary Eve Thompson, Directors Sherri Hebert and Ray Wedell accepted Andersson-Tosado's paperwork and listened to comments and questions from the dozen other attendees who had registered to utilize the allotted 3 minutes per individual speaker, or 5 minutes for a speaker representing a cluster or an HOA.

Just what is it about the redevelopment plans that has sparked the ire of so many?

The initial proposal submitted by Bozzuto asked for a High Density land use with 625 apartments and 34 townhomes. After meetings with County and RA personnel, a revised proposal was submitted, requesting 562 apartments. The concept plan as approved by the RA Design Review Board last

month was further scaled down to propose 511 apartments in two (rather than the originally proposed three) mid-sized buildings and 51 townhomes. More than doubling the current occupancy rate on the site, the addition of hundreds more vehicles on streets that already see overflow parking from Bozzuto's other apartment complex on Center Harbor, and the actual design of the proposed new buildings are what have so many people willing to add their names and comments at meetings and to an online petition set up by Andersson-Tosado.

Nicola Pace is one of those people. She lives directly across from St. Johns Wood and she doesn't think the plan is in keeping with the spirit of her hometown. She believes that the project "belongs next to the Metro or Reston Town Center - not in North Point." A Reston resident for 45 years, Pace said she was saddened to see "developers taking over and changing the ...environment Reston was built on." Becoming visibly emotional during her turn before the committee, she begged "we need your help. Please listen to us and help us solve this

problem."

Speaker Jean Johnson agreed that the proposed design "looks nothing like what is around this area. I don't like it looking like Reston Town Center. I don't live in Town Center, and I don't want to," she declared to approving applause. Vladi Ivanov added his comments via the petition, writing that "such a massive increase in density simply should not be allowed in a quiet suburban neighbourhood...it sets a dangerous precedent that will turn Reston into Arlington, something that the Reston residents have rejected by living in Reston and not Arlington."

Johnson and others also expressed concerns about the increase in traffic, especially on a street that includes Buzz Aldrin Elementary School. The plan calls for an additional entrance to be added on Center Harbor Rd. rather than onto Reston Parkway and the attendees and petition signers worry that the extra traffic cutting through their streets to Wiehle Avenue and Baron Cameron will cause traffic backups and noisy neighborhoods, as well as create additional hazards for walkers, bikers, runners and school kids. Other speakers asked how the added population would affect enrollment at the elementary school. "Have they thought about that?" asked one attendee. "No trailers at Aldrin, please," she added.

The majority of the speakers chastised the RA in the course of their remarks, but a significant number of the comments introduced into the record specifically aimed anger at Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins. "I hold Hudgins responsible for pushing this project through without really listening to our concerns," said Arlene Krieger, who has added her support to organizing the protesting group. Andersson-Tosado said that the only response she received from Hudgins' office was in regards to the discussion about egress from the property. In an email provided for this article, Supervisor Hudgins wrote that the "Reston Master plan...has always been about density levels. High density residential was established around the Village Centers to make them successful" and that "The original planning identified St. Johns Wood as high-density residential." The residents in opposition to the redevelopment are not swayed by this reasoning. Several noted that North Point Village is already successful, with a near-full compliment of retail, service providers and restaurants.

Another reason that Andersson-Tosado says her group is up in arms is that "too many of us either didn't know about the project at all, or certainly didn't realize its scope and how much of an impact it would have on our neighborhoods, and indeed, all of Reston and what makes it a special place." She says she only recently became aware of the full nature of the plan. "I only found about this last week and I only live a block away," commented Arlene Shoenfield. "You have let us down as our association."

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 8

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Residents Oppose St. Johns Proposal

FROM PAGE 6

RA REPRESENTATIVES Hebert and Fulkerson responded that the redevelopment planning has been in the works for some time and that updates are available on the RA website. They also said that Reston Association itself sometimes finds out about projects and meetings late or with little notice. “We actually share many of your frustrations,” stated Fulkerson, but she and the other committee members did agree, however, that communication with Reston residents could always be improved. Fulkerson promised that efforts to make contact with affected residents should be – and would be – an ongoing priority. She asked the attendees to contact her directly with their details in order to be added to an update database going forward.

In her statement, Supervisor Hudgins also acknowledged that there “clearly is not a comfort level with the Bozzuto Plan. Bozzuto has agreed to continue to try to respond to citizens concerns...and agreed to come back to the community. The best outcome for all is a final proposal that generates community consensus and creates a win/win solution for all.”

Although the Governance Committee is not the vehicle that can affect the changes being requested by the St. Johns Wood Plan protesters, the attendees took heart from remarks made by Director Ray Wedell after the commentary period concluded. To the obvious surprise of many of the attendees, Wedell offered support for their concerns, even going so far as to offer his opinion that the redevelopment is not a necessity and that the plan would not have been met with approval by Reston’s founder, the late Bob Simon. Wedell even offered advice on how to achieve their goals but added the warning “This will be a fight. You can’t rely on the other guy to get this done. You have to do it yourselves. Do you have the guts and gumption to see this through?”

Wedell proceeded to put forth a motion that was met with cheers and applause. “Move to side with the people and say that we do not want the project and put the issue in front of the Reston Association Board Operations Committee and the full Board of Directors in September.” Director Hebert seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Andersson-Tosado and her partners Arlene Krieger, Aileen Reinhard and others are pleased that the Committee heard their voices and is willing to stand with them on this issue, but they know that Director Wedell is right. “There is still a challenge ahead of us. Now we must be heard by the County.”

Those seeking further information can find Andersson-Tosado’s letter and a more detailed discussion of the objections that she and others have to the St. Johns Wood redevelopment plan at www.ipetitions.com, referencing St. Johns Wood. The Reston Association website at www.reston.org has renderings of the project and more details about the plan and the process to date. To be included regarding future updates and meetings, check the RA website or submit your contact details to CEO Fulkerson at cate@reston.org.

Nicola Pace has lived in Reston since she was three years old. She addressed the RA Governance Committee asking for their assistance in stopping the redevelopment of the St. Johns Wood apartments as proposed. Pace lives nearby the complex which is located off Center Harbor Rd. and Reston Parkway.

PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



The Reston Association Governance Committee is not authorized to act on the requests made by the residents who oppose the redevelopment of the St. Johns Wood apartments, but they decided to pass a motion supporting the Restonians. Director Ray Wedell (Center) made the motion that was passed by committee members (from left) Sherri Hebert, Eve Thompson and Michael Sanio. Cate Fulkerson (far right) is the CEO of the Reston Association.



WEEK IN RESTON

Mentors Needed for Students in Grades 3 to 6

The Reston/Herndon Branch of The American Association of University Women is looking for Mentors for the September 2016 to June 2017 school year. The young ladies to be mentored will be in grades 3 to 6. Mentoring is on a one-to-one basis. Experience not necessary but love of young students is. You do not need to be a member of AAUW, but you will be asked to complete a vetting process by the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Mentors meet with pupils every Tuesday at Forest Edge Elementary School in Reston, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. If you are interested, please contact Fran Lovaas -

franlovaas@comcast.net.”

Hunter Mill District Public Safety Forum

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins is hosting a community forum to provide an update on the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. In addition to the update, the forum will serve as an opportunity for the public to give their feedback on the Commission’s recommendations, including proposals related to independent oversight of the Fairfax County Police Department. The meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 8, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. The final report of the commission and the committee reports can be reviewed on the County’s website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/>.

. For additional information on the forum, contact Paul Davis at 703-478-0283, or email huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov address:

Fatal Pedestrian Hit and Run Crash in Reston

Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying and locating a vehicle and its driver involved in a crash that resulted in the death of a pedestrian.

Officers responded to the report of a hit and run crash involving a pedestrian on North Shore Drive at the intersection of Village Road, at approximately 5:15 p.m. The pedestrian was crossing North Shore Drive

— not in crosswalk — and was struck by a newer model black Nissan Altima (or similar vehicle), with tinted windows and silver trim on the front. The striking vehicle did not stop and fled the scene.

This is a four way intersection, controlled by stop signs. The pedestrian, 76-year-old, Hung Soon Seo, was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital and was pronounced dead at about 11:30 p.m. — according to FCPD Public Affairs Bureau. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit witness phone line: 703-280-0543 or contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES (274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Zoosday — Every Tuesday, July through Sept. 27, 4 - 7 p.m., Pavilion. Enjoy an petting zoo with hands-on, educational experiences. Free. Rain or shine. restontowncenter.com

Hutchison Solos at PenFed Realty Aug. through Sept 30 The exhibit is free and the office is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. at the office of PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Dr., Reston, VA 20190. Karen Hutchison displays abstract expressions of her thoughts and emotions using color and texture. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

"The Way I See It" Exhibit. Aug. 2-Oct. 1. Vienna Arts Society Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna. Reston resident Bob Kaminski will showcase his work in abstract and representational styles. ViennaArtsSociety.org. 703-319-3971.

Team Trivia at Kalypso's. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Bring your friend and join the challenge. 703-707-0660. www.kalypsoSPORTSTAVERN.COM.

Open Mic Night at Kalypso's. Mondays, 7-10 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Musicians and singers. Love to perform but need a venue? Want to get used to playing for an audience? 703-707-0660. www.kalypsoSPORTSTAVERN.COM.

Karaoke at Kalypso's. Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Come to Kalypso's and sing your hearts out! 703-707-0660. www.kalypsoSPORTSTAVERN.COM.

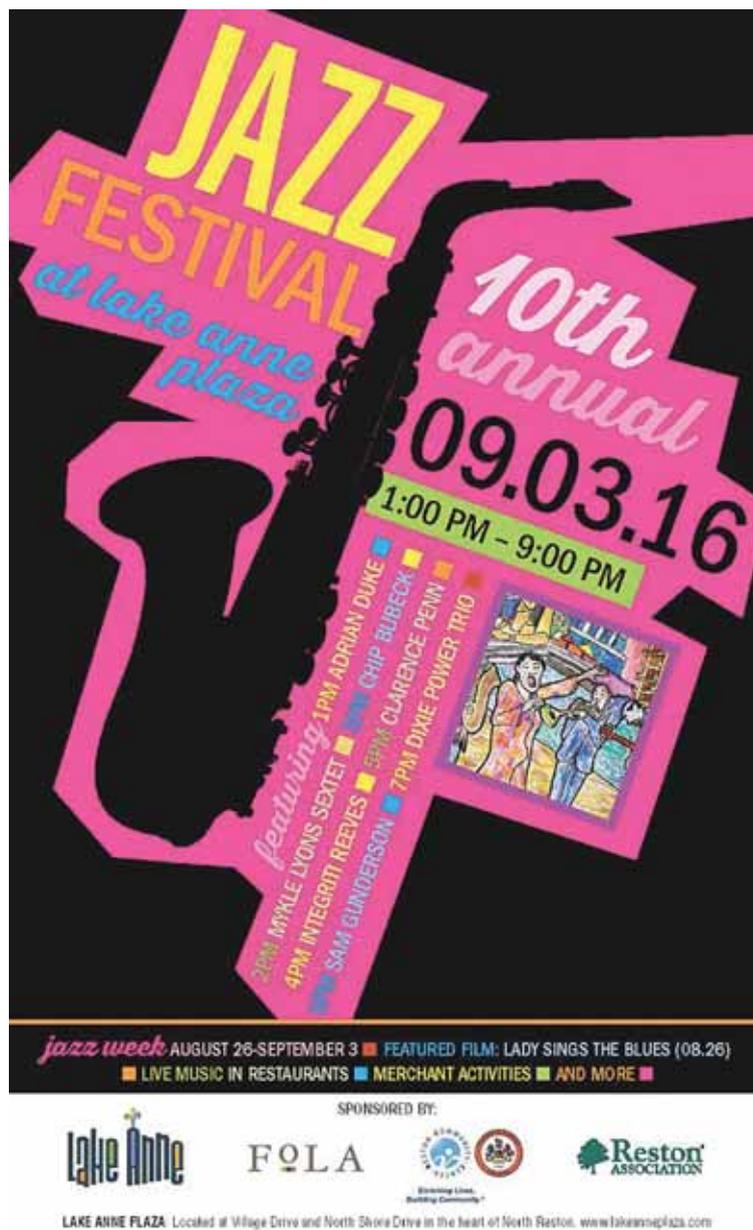
Mr. Knick Knack. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays through October. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Unique, heart-centered music for kids and their grown-ups. Free. restontowncenter.com. 703-579-6720

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun run that is safe and social. For more information, call 703-689-0999 or visit <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

Dog Days of Summer — Every Wednesday, July through Sept. 28, 4 - 7 p.m., Pavilion. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion as it is transformed weekly into an off-leash play area. Free. restontowncenter.com

LINES, CURVES AND COLORS On exhibit August 31- October 2. At ArtSpace Herndon 750 Center St, Herndon, VA 20170. "Lines, Curves, and Colors" will present the talents of four artists working in different mediums. The show features one photographer and three sculpture artists. Opening Reception Saturday September 9th, 7 - 9 p.m. For more information call 703-956-9560.

Reston Photographic Society Meetings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Beginning on Sept. 9 in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston, VA 20191. On the third Monday of each month through Nov. 31, the meeting date is changed if the third Monday falls on a holiday. September through November. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to share information and enjoy guest speakers, workshops and group critiques. Nonmembers are welcome. Visit the LRA website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org



Poster announcing Jazz Festival.

Jazz and Blues Festival Saturday at Lake Anne Plaza

Week long activities to conclude with 10th Annual Lake Anne Jazz & Blues Festival.

Lake Anne Plaza has announced the artist line up for their annual Jazz & Blues Festival, which will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The Lake Anne Jazz Week

that started Friday, Aug. 26 will conclude on Saturday, Sept. 3 with the 10th Annual Jazz & Blues Festival.

The Jazz & Blues festival is a free, family friendly, all-day event that will take place from 1-9 p.m. and will showcase a variety of talented regional and national jazz & blues artists.

The festival is sponsored by Lane Anne Merchants, Friends of Lake Anne, the Reston Community Center, and Reston Association. For the full schedule of events/times, visit www.lakeanneplaza.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 2

Reston Station Music. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston. Holly Montgomery Band. Rock. 703-230-1985.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Reston Station Movies. 8:30 p.m. Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston. "Honey, I Shrank the Kids ." 703-230-1985.

SATURDAY/ SEPT. 3-4

Middle Eastern Food Festival on Labor Day weekend. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Saturday, noon - 6 p.m., Sunday, Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church will host its 23rd annual Middle Eastern Food Festival on the church grounds at 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The Festival will feature authentic Middle Eastern food, music and dancing, as well as vendors. Debke dance will be led by instructors, or participate in the backgammon tournament.



PHOTO BY DAVID MCCLISTER
COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER, CENTERSTAGE

Kathy Matea in performance.

New Reston CenterStage Season Opens

Timeless songs from Kathy Matea and Bill Cooley on Sept. 17. Where and When

"The Acoustic Living Room, Songs and Stories with Kathy Matea," featuring Bill Cooley at Reston Community Center, CenterStage, Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston. Performance Sept. 17, 2016 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$25 Non-Reston Ticket Price: \$35. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Grammy award recipient Kathy Matea is known as an uplifting singer, songwriter and musician. Matea can be a too infrequent performer in the Fairfax County area. Soon she and her longtime collaborator, guitarist Bill Cooley will open the 2016-2017 season of professional performances at Reston's CenterStage.

"I am excited to bring you the very best in performing arts with the Professional Touring Artist Series," said Paul Douglas Michnewicz, director, Arts and Events, Reston Community Center. "The upcoming elections inspired me to program a variety of thought-provoking yet entertaining performances including Kathy Matea's beautiful reflections on the common man."

Matea's Reston performance is billed as "The Acoustic Living Room." Matea and Cooley are expected to share songs, both classics and newer, along with stories near and dear to both the duo and their audience. The evening will weave together the heartfelt and the haunting about love, lost and living life. Songs heard may include "18 Wheels and a Dozen Roses," "Where've You Been?" along with other musical numbers. The evening can also be expected to include the less often heard from an older album, or perhaps Matea will find a unique way to cover a rock hit.

Whether musical numbers from deep archives of requested hits, each tune will come with Matea and Cooley's very own distinct manner of interpreting life through voice and guitar. For those less aware of Matea, she has produced nearly 20 albums with bluegrass, gospel, and Celtic influences. Her lyrics go directly to the soul. Who cannot be smitten with lyrics such as these: 'Where've you been? I've looked for you forever and a day. Where've you been? I'm just not myself when you're away."

Matea is also a well-known storyteller with inspirations from her Appalachian roots and experiences beyond the West Virginia landscape.

The new 2016-2017 Reston CenterStage professional performance season runs the gamut from 'John Coltrane's and Marvin Gaye's observations of brutality, examinations of religious and racial strife with 'Beyond Sacred' and 'The Pursuit of Harmony,' to a celebration of African American culture with 'Black Nativity,'" said Michnewicz.

There will also be an examination of the feminine in choreographer Erica Rebollar's 'Sacred Profane' and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Eugene Robinson. There is also plenty of "just plain fun" with the likes of "Happy Vaudeville Holidays," noted Michnewicz. "I hope you will come to the CenterStage to learn and laugh and love."

A Passing Reference



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, a week ago in fact, Stuart Grief, a fellow non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV patient/survivor, died from his disease. Stuart succumbed to his cancer less than two years after his late fall, 2014 diagnosis. My wife, Dina and I first met him — and his wife, Amy, in late April 2015, at LUNGeVity's (the nation's largest private foundation dedicated to lung cancer research, outreach, etc.; www.LUNGeVity.org) HOPE Summit, a conference for lung cancer survivors, caregivers and medical professionals, held annually in Rosslyn, Va. At that time, six months post diagnosis, Stuart said he was "N.E.D," which means "no evidence of disease," the first time I had ever heard that acronym. We spent a few hours together for dinner at a local restaurant one night (Old Angler's Inn, actually), enough to exchange pleasantries and email addresses. Other than that one evening, our association went no further. However, Stuart and his wife lived in Needham, Ma., the same town/suburb of Boston where my best friend, Cary, and his wife, Mindy live. Given certain circumstances, I thought there might be a foundation for a friendship between the four of them so I encouraged all parties to make a connection, which they did, and over the next/last 15 months they saw each other socially and spoke regularly on the phone.

Though the Griefs and Louries were not in touch directly, we did receive Amy's email updates on Stu's treatment/health status, and of course Cary updated me as well. Hardly were we in the inner circle. We were mostly on the outside looking in. Nevertheless, I was involved, emotionally, and certainly could appreciate and understand all that Stuart and Amy were enduring. When you're a member of the club (cancer patient/survivor/caregiver), you, (at least I do), draw strength/gain hope from survivorship stories and unfortunately feel weakened/compromised by deaths and disappointments. When I received Cary's email last Saturday about Stuart's death, including a scanned copy of his obituary from the Boston Globe, immediately, I questioned out loud, rhetorically, its reality and promptly called Cary. After a brief conversation, as I caught him in the middle of something, it was all confirmed. We agreed to speak later in the day at a mutually convenient time and so I hung up the phone. Then I walked from my home office to the den to tell Dina that Stuart had died. I could barely get the words out before I started crying.

It was a blow to be sure. It was as if part of me had also died. I felt sad and oddly enough, somewhat at greater risk than before I had received the news. I hardly knew Stuart, and other than the lung cancer connection, there was no other substance to our relationship. However, as cancer patients, we are all connected; we are living the same life, fearing the same uncontrollable outcomes and juggling the same emotions; and what effects one of us, good or bad, effects all of us. Hearing about another cancer's patient's death is the worst possible news — other than our own discouraging news, that we can imagine.

But when you actually see it, hear it — and ultimately believe it ("it" being a cancer death), the reality of your own mortality/health circumstances come crashing down; at least it did for me. I got my bearings soon enough and thankfully, for me, life has gone on. Still, I feel as if something is missing from my life. And even though Stuart and I never spoke after our initial time together, I felt as if he was part of my support system and I his. Not a key part, but in the conversation nonetheless — and most definitely in the club. Stuart will be missed, but never forgotten.

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

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

McCrea Family (from left — John, Kellie, Natalie, Trudy) enjoying the open space on the RA path behind the 13th green. Rescue Reston has reached a matching \$5000 Challenge Goal set by John McCrea, President of Achieve-It, LLC, a Green Jacket sponsor of the 2016 tournament.

Rescue Reston to Hold Annual Golf Tournament

On Monday, Oct. 3 Rescue Reston will hold its second annual fundraising golf tournament at Reston National Golf Course. Rescue Reston is the citizens' organization created four years ago to prevent Northwestern Mutual's plans to destroy 166 acres of recreational open space in Reston.

Rescue Reston joined Reston Association and Fairfax County to bring three separate issues before the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Circuit Court. Over the last four years, the law firm of Greehan, Taves, Pandak & Stoner has expertly represented Rescue Reston. The success in the court system increased the need for legal defense funds. Through specific fundraising events organized by Rescue Reston, including door-to-door solicitations, the organization has resolved 74 percent of the \$151,169 four-year legal bill. Rescue Reston is self-funded and is separate from Reston Association and Fairfax County. "We have a strong committee and are working very hard for this year's golf tournament to resolve this last portion of our legal obligation. We are off to a great start this year with significant contributions. Yet we have a way to go. There are plenty of opportunities for members of the community and

businesses to participate in or sponsor the tournament" said John Pinkman, chairman of the golf tournament.

Sponsorships are available at many different levels. A unique sponsorship offered this year is the "First Responder Foursome," an opportunity to honor those who serve by sponsoring four first responders for an afternoon of golf. You can also choose three first responders to join your foursome. Sponsoring a South Lakes High School Golf Team Student Athlete Foursome is also a choice. Reston National is the SLHS Golf Team's home course.

"We've been working very hard to preserve Reston's open space and the excellent standard set by the Reston Association for our extraordinary and nationally recognized planned community. Rescue Reston has been representing all the citizens of the community and now we need the community's help in this fundraising effort," Pinkman added.

Reston Association's Walker Nature Center will host a free nature hike on the RA pathways that border and cross the golf course on the same afternoon.

More information, registration, and sponsor opportunities can be located at www.rescuereston.org or by contacting Mr. Pinkman at 703-725-3873.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. during the summer. Nursery and childcare are provided starting at 8 a.m. until the end of the service. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian

Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7:30-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12 or \$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. during the summer. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-reston.org.

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One of a Kind!

\$1,195,000

One of a kind single family Cape Cod home w/inviting front porch, 5BR, 4BA on one acre flat usable lot, perfect for a pool! 2 car attached garage at main house & a carriage house with an additional 2 car garage & studio apt w/kitchenette & full bath over it (rental opportunity). Amazing gourmet kit, luxury main level master suite w/courtyard brick patio. Convenient location, no HOA. So many special details in this custom home.



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



Sterling

Cascades-Central Parke

\$511,000

Rarely available St. Regis model at Central Parke, a 55+ community. Bright and beautiful end location/private patio backing to treed common area. Main level master suite, first floor den, 2nd BR & loft upstairs. BEAUTIFUL!



Ashburn

Belmont Greene Condo

\$275,000

Beautiful upper level condo at Belmont Greene. Spacious plan w/great living area, including FR w/FP. Balcony overlooking the trees. One-car attached garage.



Call Pat Coit 703-585-2522 or e-mail Pat.coit@longandfooster.com



Reston

The Courts

\$489,900

Reston, near Lake Anne & Reston Town Center! If you are a picky buyer and want an impeccable home you need to see this meticulously maintained & immaculate 3 level townhome backing to woods. The finished walk-out basement is a super space for roommates w/a 4th BR, full BA & rec rm. Balcony off Master BR to enjoy morning coffee & private front courtyard for barbeques. Fab remodeled BA's including skylight & pebble tile for foot massage. Spacious & open great room w/FP & balcony. This small cluster of only 20 homes has 2 tennis courts & a basketball hoop! Move-in ready!



Call Karen Swanson 703-795-9970 or e-mail karen.swanson@longandfooster.com



Reston

Enjoy Upscale Urban living!

\$899,900

Gorgeous end unit on the best lot in West Market w/treed community area on 2 sides. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout main level. Sun-filled gourmet kit w/elegant white cabinets, breakfast bar & table space. Fourth level rec m w/vaulted ceilings & bar opens to roof-top terrace & RTC skyline. Walk to rec center/shops/restaurants/future METRO. Updates inc: 2 A/C units, fridge, carpet, roof deck, paint.



Reston

Fabulous Location!

\$535,000

Smashing double master suite all brick garage townhome in sought after North Hills. Beautifully updated throughout, hardwood floors and private deck backing to woods. Move-in perfect. So close to Wiehle Silver Line METRO.



Call Missy Edmondson 703-932-8484 Missy.edmondson@longandfooster.com



Reston

Light-filled Gulick Home!

\$899,999

On one of the prettiest streets in North Reston-backs to parkland w/view of pond. High ceilings, gleaming hardwoods, abundant windows, lovely tiled sunroom. Gourmet kitchen w/SS/granite. Walk-out lower level w/5th BR & 3rd full bath.



Call Terry@703-861-0538 or e-mail Terry.atherton@longandfooster.com



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

—Anita Lasansky,
Managing Broker

1-800-296-2593

www.Reston-Herndon-Homes.com