The Frost family, grandparents Marsha and Lawrence and brother Tanner, accompanied 13-year-old Robbie from Centreville on the travel adventure. United First Officer Julie Callens lent her cap to her special passenger for the photo.

Wings for All

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Lawsuit Filed in Reston Town Center Parking Battle

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Three’s Community

News, Page 3
Public Art Reston Marks 10th Anniversary

The year 2017 marks a significant milestone for Public Art Reston. This organization, whose mission is to create a new generation of public artworks in Reston, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. In recognition of the accomplishments of the past decade, it has moved on from “Initiative” and officially changed its name to Public Art Reston. “A 10-year anniversary is a prime opportunity to celebrate Public Art Reston with a refreshed brand and updated name,” said Public Art Reston President and Chair Maggie Parker. “Initiative for Public Art Reston already had its mark by facilitating approximately 15 public artworks in Reston since its inception. These additions to Reston’s public art inventory were achieved in cooperation with many of the community’s key civic organizations, corporations and a broad array of individuals, who worked with our Executive Director Anne Delaney to inspire the community and engage the mind and senses through public art.”

Public Art Reston’s refreshed branding includes a new logo, outreach materials, and an updated website, currently being developed. These changes are being done in collaboration with Red Thinking, branding and digital marketing specialists founded by Jen Sterling and supported in part by Red Thinking’s annual BrandJam grant, which helps local non-profits get the marketing collateral they need to achieve their missions.” “The Red Thinking team has loved working with Public Art Reston from its inception,” Sterling said. “We established the original brand identity and then, during our most recent BrandJam, we were invited to refresh the organization’s brand to represent its growth. Public Art Reston has always been bold and confident in how it represents its brand, making it incredibly fun and rewarding to work with.”

Public Art Reston’s renewed branding will focus on encouraging the community and viewers to discover, engage, and be inspired by Reston’s public artworks. Public Art Reston was founded in 2007 by Reston civic and community organizations and leaders. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to inspire an ongoing commitment for public art and create a new generation of artworks in Reston. It imagines public art throughout Reston that inspires the community and engages the mind and senses.

For more about Public Art Reston, visit www.publicartreston.org.

Disrupting Islam at South Lakes High
Joshua Salaam, the Youth Director at the ADAMS Center, gave a dynamic presentation about Islam to Andrea Parent’s IB World Religions class at South Lakes High School. The discussion was based on student generated questions about his own personal practices, religious rituals, as well as current social and political issues. He made the practice of Islam come alive with his relatable answers and explanations that engaged the students, opened minds, and produced even more thought-provoking questions.

Celebrating Dogs and Their Humans
Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and the Park Authority are teaming together to host the Wag Fest, on Saturday, April 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dog owners will have the opportunity to learn about the county’s dog parks and find out about opportunities to serve as a volunteer dog park monitor.

Also featured at Wag Fest will be presentations and demonstrations of the Fire and Rescue VA canine team members and the Fairfax County Police K-9 unit. In addition, dog licenses will be available for sale, and guests from the Animal Shelter will be featured. Dog supplies and businesses will also be on hand for the festivities.

Wag Fest will be held inside and outside at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. For more information, contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

Kiddie Academy in Reston Presents Summer Programs
On Saturday, April 1, Kiddie Academy of Reston will be hosting inaugural CampVentures event. Local families seeking summer camp programs for children ages 2-12 years old are invited to the free, community event to experience first-hand a summer’s worth of camp programs, concepts and education in a single morning (from 9 a.m.-12) at 12320 Pinecrest Road, Suite 150, Reston.

This event is open to anyone in the community — including current students and new friends and families who would like to partake in this fun experience.

Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

To have community events listed in the Connector, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ by noon on Friday.

ON GOING
Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available. Call 703-958-2830 or email Reston.ED@sunrisecaregivers.org.

Exercise for Parkinson’s. Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sports&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson’s Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. parkinsonfoundation.org. ch莳ng@sportsandhealth.com. 703-970-4148.

Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, mobility. Free. parkinsonfoundation.org.

Wednesday/March 29
Transportation Meeting, 7 p.m. in the lecture hall of Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Fairfax County Department of Transportation will host two informational meetings on the proposed Reston Transportation Service District. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more.

Saturday/April 8
Managing Inflammation Naturally. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11935 Rosman Towne Drive. Registered dietitian Natalie Kannan will share ways to manage chronic inflammation through diet and healthy eating choices. For adults. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more.

Wednesday/April 12
Medicare 101. 2-3 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2130 Colle Neck Road, Reston. Fairfax County is offering the free seminar, Medicare 101. Contact Karen Brutsché at 703-390-6357 for more.

Supporting Peace Players
From left: Franklin Middle School eighth graders Zachary Levine, Spencer Schwartz, Nathan Reed, are joined by Alex Harris, owner of Evolution Basketball, at the second annual “Dunkin’ for Dollars 3 on 3” tournament. This year, the event was held at Evolution Basketball in Merrifield and raised $1,300 for Peace Players International, a nonprofit that unites young people from divided communities through basketball. Evolution Basketball donated their court space and Shoppers Food Warehouse at Village Center at Dulles donated concessions.

Photo contributed
A lawsuit was filed against Reston Town Center Parking Battle

A restaurant in Reston Town Center filed a lawsuit against Boston Properties on Thursday, March 23, over the paid parking system that was implemented in January, which has been met with resistance from merchants and shoppers.

Jackson’s Mighty Fine Food & Lucky Lounge on Democracy Drive filed the lawsuit, including a motion for a temporary injunction against its town center landlord, South of Market LLC, which is controlled and operated by Boston Properties.

Filed in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Jackson’s seeks to force its town center landlord, South of Market LLC, which is controlled and operated by Boston Properties.

The lawsuit alleges the town center’s parking validation system violates Jackson’s lease rights and the requirements for its guests to receive free parking.

“Our team has been inundated with complaints from guests who tell us that the process to use the validation system is cumbersome and confusing,” Orson Williams, managing partner at Jackson’s, said in a press release. “On top of that, Boston Properties’ parking attendants often give incorrect and misleading instructions when our guests seek help in getting unlimited free parking.”

THE PAID PARKING system requires all parkers to pay by providing their license plate number and credit card information by either using a mobile app called Park RTC, accessing the Park RTC website or by dialing a phone number. For those parking in the center’s garages, utilizing a kiosk to pay by credit card or cash is also available.

More steps are required when people receive validation for their parking, which participating merchants dole out via numeric codes that patrons must then enter into the mobile app or the kiosk that correlates with specific, color-coded parking garages that merchants are assigned. If shoppers park in the incorrect garage, they are out of luck.

“Many parking users have complained that the system is not user-friendly, requires payment upfront and signage in the garage is confusing,” Williams said.

The lawsuit is the latest move in a merchant- and community-lead resistance to the town center’s paid parking system since it was implemented on Jan. 3. In February, disgruntled merchants who claimed their businesses are now suffering significant profit losses organized into the Reston Merchants Association and hired the Fay Law Group to look into taking legal action.

Earlier in March, hundreds of people walked in a “Park Free RTC” protest march demanding Boston Properties reduce hourly parking rates or give patrons the first hour or two free.

“We did not want to have to sue and we tried to work with Boston Properties to address our concerns and our rights under the lease to give our customers free and hassle-free parking, both before and after Boston Properties implemented this parking system,” Jon Norton, CEO of Great American Restaurants, which owns Jackson’s, said in a press release.

“But they were uncompromising and appeared disinterested in working with us to provide our guests a better experience at Reston Town Center.”

While the restaurant chose to forgo teaming up with the coalition of merchants who are threatening legal action under their association umbrella, it feels it has its own unique legal claim.

“Jackson’s lawsuit is based on their own lease and contractual terms,” Christy Moran, a Jackson’s spokesperson, said over email. “Each restaurant negotiates their own lease. Great American Restaurants/Jackson’s is not aware of the terms of other leases.”

MORE LITIGATION is still to come if merchants continue to feel their requests are ignored.

“We’re very much behind Jackson’s,” Aaron Gordon of Gordon Food Group and the proprietor of the Red Velvet Cupcakery in the town center speaks to “Park Free RTC” protest marchers earlier this month.

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Mark Lipari and Rebecca Lane of Reston were the only community members to ask questions about the proposed service district during the meeting. A representative of the Reston Town Center Association was also present.

Three’s Community

The new service district that would tax all property near metrorail stations in Reston and Herndon will be voted on by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors next week and property owners had a lean showing to discuss the proposal.

Three people attended a community meeting about the new tax with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation in the cafeteria of Coates Elementary School in Herndon on Tuesday, March 21.

One reason for the poor attendance could be that property owners have not been directly notified of the proposed tax.

“I had thought that there was an effort that was being put forward to mail property owners and I don’t think that is actually the case,” Ray Johnson of the FCDOT, said during the meeting. “I know that we are putting out notifications through our typical channels through social media, through the web, through the board’s website, through public meetings, and that’s really the reason why we decided to have service district-centric meetings ahead of the public hearing. We’re trying to reach out as much as we can.”

However, these are all communications that individuals must opt-in to receive.

Rebecca Lane of Reston heard about the tax and the community meeting through word of mouth. “I was living in Reston, but I was not aware of this for some reason,” Lane said during the meeting. “Somehow it just got off my radar, so when I got the information, I got a lot of misinformation.”

While those in the community are still learning about the tax, the Board of Supervisors already voted to approve the $2.2 billion Reston Transportation Funding Plan and its associated road fund on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The plan’s service district, which the board has not voted on yet, would only affect those who own property within the Reston Transit Station Areas. The county designated these areas near the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority metrorail stations that will serve Reston and Herndon on the Silver Line: the Reston Town Center, Wiehle-Reston East and Herndon stations.

The proposed service district rate for homeowners is 2.1 cents per $100 of assessed value of the property. The FCDOT will hold another community meeting about the service district at Hughes Middle School in Reston on Wednesday, March 29, after deadline for this newspaper. The FCDOT will also be giving a presentation to the Reston Town Center Association on April 3, according to Tom Biesiadny, FCDOT director.

The board will have a public hearing on Tuesday, April 4, at 2 p.m. to discuss and vote on the plan’s service district. If it is approved, the board will also vote on whether to establish an advisory board to advise the board on transportation project priorities and annual adjustments to the tax rate for the service district.
Expand Medicaid Now

Virginia has missed out on $10 billion, 30,000 jobs and care for 400,000 citizens.

Virginia’s General Assembly has refused to accept one of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, expansion of Medicaid at almost no cost to Virginia that could have covered 400,000 uninsured Virginians and would have brought more than $10 billion into the state. It has also cost lives.

Ironically, the failed bill to “repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act included changes to Medicaid that would have penalized states, like Virginia, that did not expand Medicaid, permanently reducing federal funding.

On Monday, Gov. Terry McAuliffe proposed a budget amendment restoring his authority to pursue planning for Medicaid expansion in the wake of the failed repeal effort in Congress. Kansas and North Carolina are taking steps this week to expand Medicaid, hoping to join the 31 other states plus the District of Columbia that have already done so.

More than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. More than 40,000 residents of Arlington and Alexandria have no health insurance. That’s more than 12 percent of the people who live in one of the wealthiest areas in the nation.

A Harvard Medical School study determined that the decision by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act would result in between 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in. In Virginia, the number of deaths due to failure to expand Medicaid: between 266 and 987.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation or education.

In Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

As Virginia and the rest of the nation wrestles with heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed.

“The time has come for us to bring our tax-payer dollars back to serve the individuals who need them the most,” said McAuliffe. “With this amendment, I am asking the General Assembly to work with me to pursue Medicaid expansion and put this funding to work for our most vulnerable Virginians.”

Primaries for candidates for the House of Delegates plus governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general are in June, with all seats on the ballot in November. An important question as voters choose: What is their position on Medicaid expansion? How did incumbents vote?

— Mary Kimm

Letters to the Editor

Trumpcare is Greater Threat Than Russia

To the Editor: Do we care about Russia? We should. But while the FBI investigates whether Trump’s campaign worked with a known enemy to intervene in our elections, I am concerned with a far greater threat to the health of our democracy, the Trump healthcare bill.

As a mom who carries an Epipen for her son, as someone who is familiar with the cost of expensive diagnostic tests and care for rare diseases, as someone who has studied the business of healthcare and practices for wellness, I could argue against the merits of Trumpcare, but I won’t. Logic tells us the foundation of the bill is wrong. The GOP healthcare bill is a terrorist threat to the fundamental power of our nation, the likes of which Putin could have never inflicted upon us. What better way to destroy a nation than physically weaken it? A nation full of ill people who are financially compromised and emotionally distraught cannot create a strong, safe or independent country. How malicious, How devious. To promote the bill as increasing health care choice when it will cut health insurance for millions of people. Trumpcare is a greater risk to our security than a foreign agent because it will cripple the source of our success, our people.

See Letters. Page 5

What a Difference a Governor Makes!

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plumb
State Delegate (D-36)

While a governor is the chief executive of a state responsible for seeing that the laws are carried out, the governor plays a crucial role in the legislative process with the requirement that all passed bills must be signed before they become law or not signed and vetoed to keep such bills from becoming law.

McAuliffe has made with his veto pen very effectively in vetoing bills that respond to special interests but do not serve the public good of the Commonwealth. By the end of the reconvened session next week he will have set a record of vetoing more than 90 bills without legislature being able to get a two-thirds vote in both houses for the bills to become law without his signature. I am especially pleased that he has never vetoed a bill that I had not already vetoed against in the regular session.

As in previous years he has vetoed bills that would legalize discrimination against LGBT citizens. He has regularly vetoed bills similar to HB2 in North Carolina that has brought such bad publicity to that state for upholding discrimination and that resulted in the state losing businesses and major sports events. Without Gov. McAuliffe’s courageous stand, Virginia would be in the same category of discrimination as North Carolina. Gov. McAuliffe has once again vetoed a bill that would deny public funding to Planned Parenthood which provides critically important health services to women over an ideological dispute as to who should make reproductive health decisions for women.

He is again vetoing a series of bills that would make guns and switchblades more accessible to persons in emergency shelters including children. He vetoed a bill that would have expanded eligibility for concealed handgun permits. What a difference Gov. Terry McAuliffe has made with his veto pen in keeping some really bad bills from becoming law.
Letters
FROM PAGE 4

government workers, technol-
yogy innovators, doctors, teachers,
artists and police officers should
all exercise our choice to grant ev-
everyone access to health care by re-
jecting the GOP proposal.

In Northern Virginia we know
better. In the districts where rep-
resentatives have blindly or com-
plainly argued for such a destruc-
tive bill, let’s remind them that we
know better. To the senators who
have provided lukewarm support
for access to healthcare, let’s call
them out.

Margaret Gallen, Reston

Ill-conceived
To the Editor:

Fourteen million. That’s how
many of your neighbors, friends,
family members — and perhaps
even you — will lose health insur-
ance next year under the GOP’s
planned overhaul of the ACA.

Within a decade those losses bal-
loon to 24 million people, all rela-
tive to the coverage levels antic-
pated under the ACA. Premiums
will soar for older people but the
GOP’s age-based tax credits are
not calibrated to absorb these rate
increases, leaving many 50-to-64
year olds unable to afford insur-
ance. Lower-income people will
also be priced out because the GOP
tax credits are not adjusted for in-
come. As a further assault, this
vulnerable population also loses
the subsidies that help to offset
their out-of-pocket health costs.

Yes, the GOP plan is expected to
reduce the deficit by $337 billion
over 10 years, but this is only be-
cause they slash Medicaid spend-
ing by an eye-popping $880 bil-
lion and altogether $312 billion less
for premium tax credits. These
draconian cuts finance $575 bil-
ion in tax cuts, two of which will
provide windfall benefits to the
wealthiest 1 percent of Americans
and drain the Medicare Part A trust
fund three years sooner. So much
for President Trump’s promise of
universal coverage, lower costs,
and Medicaid and Medicare pro-
tections. Perhaps this was a pledge
made before he fully appreciated
the complexities of health reform.

GOP leadership would have you
believe that their plan is about giv-
ing people choices, but there will
be no choice for millions of vul-
nerable Americans under their
approach. If they persist with their
ill-conceived plan, it is the choices
that angry constituents make in
the voting booth that will haunt
them for years. Why not, instead,
work across the aisle to improve
the coverage gains of the ACA?

Julie Schoenman
Reston

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF AN EXPERIMENTAL MULTIFAMILY LINE EXTENSION PROGRAM

PURSUANT TO § 56-234 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA AND FOR WAIVER OF PROVISIONS OF RULE 20 VAC 5-303-20

CASE NO. PUR-2017-00027


Under the proposed Pilot, following a determination that an extension of service to a multifamily project would produce a positive net present value (“NPV”) calculated under the Company’s current line extension policy, an eligible builder or developer would be offered a line extension agreement pursuant to the proposed Multifamily Tariff. Under the proposed Multifamily Tariff, the contribution provided by the Company may not exceed the lesser of: (i) the actual per unit cost for installation of gas piping and venting in the multifamily project; (ii) 90% of the per unit positive NPV (on a per unit basis) of the development, as calculated using CVA’s economic analysis; or (iii) $1,250 per unit. According to the Company, the Pilot will be available to all new multifamily projects and to existing multifamily developments that are not served with natural gas but are requesting natural gas service to be provided to at least two individually metered dwelling units served through a single service line. The Company proposes a $5 million cap on cumulative contributions committed to during the five-year term of the Pilot.

According to the Company, the Pilot is designed to: (1) reduce the relatively high up-front costs of installing internal piping and venting within multifamily projects where an extension of service by CVA is economically justified; (2) afford the ultimate occupants of those multifamily buildings the opportunity to receive the economic benefits of low cost, clean and reliable natural gas service; and (3) increase CVA’s natural gas multifamily customer base throughout its service area in an economic and rational manner, which will expand the customer base over which its fixed cost of service will be recovered. For those reasons, the Company asserts that approval of the Pilot is in the public interest.

The Company states that the Pilot is necessary in order for CVA to acquire information that is or may be in furtherance of the public interest. Specifically, the Company intends to track data relating to the contributions provided, number of projects completed, number of meters added, estimated load added and estimated benefits passed on to existing customers. Additionally, the Company plans to evaluate whether the 80% of positive NPV cap on contributions as well as the $1,250 per unit cap on contributions are effective and whether either or both of the limitations on contributions should be adjusted in the event that the Pilot is extended or made permanent. In addition, the Company intends to assess whether the 480-month amortization period is reasonable or should be adjusted.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on July 25, 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive testimony from members of the public and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission’s Staff. Any person desiring to testify as a public witness at this hearing should appear fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the hearing and identify himself or herself to the Commission’s Bailiff.

A copy of the Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, James S. Copenhaver, Esquire, NiSource Corporate Services Company, 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the documents by electronic means.

Copies of the public version of all documents filed in this case also are available for interested persons to review in the Commission’s Document Control Center, located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission’s website: http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing, on or before May 2, 2017, a notice of participation. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Company at the address set forth above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2017-00027. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before July 18, 2017, any interested person wishing to comment on the Application with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any interested person desiring to file comments electronically may do so on or before July 18, 2017, by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case. Compact disks or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2017-00027.

The Commission’s Rules of Practice may be viewed at http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case. A printed copy of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and an official copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding may be obtained from the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.
Wings for All

Travel rehearsal offered for individuals with disabilities.

Glenn Reges and Ina Laemmerzahl are planning on taking their 9-year-old son, Felix Reges, on a trip to Colorado. Many couples would simply book their flights, a hotel room and the rental car and when the day arrived would be off to the airport for a fun-filled family vacation, but things are a bit more complicated for this Reston family. Felix has autism and is legally blind. His parents were worried how they would manage the challenges of travel by air, and how Felix would react to an experience that has been known to cause stress even for the most prepared travellers.

The “Wings for All” program’s latest offering was one way to take a dry run at the travel adventure.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) teamed up with non-profit The Arc, local chapter The Arc of Northern Virginia, United Airlines, Travelers Aid, MarketPlace Development, and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to simulate a typical airport travel experience for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

About 125 people with special needs and their family members — arrived at Dulles International Airport on Saturday, March 25 and were guided through the travel process by an army of volunteers clad in neon-green t-shirts and directed by dozens of like-colored posters with directional arrows and additional instructions.

At THE UNITED check-in kiosks, United employee May Hester helped each participant use the screens to enter their information and her colleague Jeff Lattea printed out boarding passes. Lattea, whose mother was a special education teacher, has volunteered to work this event several times. “I love doing this,” she said. “If it helps give these families the confidence to take trips they may have avoided, it’s worth every minute.”

To gain that kind of confidence is why Lauren Gibson brought her 8-year-old son Aiden out to participate in the program. Where would Aiden take his flight if given the choice? Without hesitation, the youngster declared “Disney World!”

With boarding passes for United “Flight 2839 to Baltimore” in hand, the “passengers” then made their way to the TSA checkpoints. Some accommodations for wheelchair chairs had to be made. A back brace posed a momentary delay. A few of the parents and guardians looked somewhat anxious, concerned that their participant would become distressed at the on-and-off shoe-removal, the passing through the monitors, and, in one or two cases, a wave of the wand, but the piece of the pre-flight travel puzzle that had worried many the most, went off without a hitch and it was on to the subway to Terminal C.

At Gate C12 there was the wait that seasoned travelers have come to expect, as planes are maintained and crews come aboard. Not part of the regular routine, however, was the visit of First Officer Julie Callens, who circled the gate area and introduced herself to all of her passengers, offering souvenier wing pins and a smile.

At first, Kelsi Da Re, 11, was too shy to accept Callens’ overtures and her gifts, but before long the girl, who had travelled from Haymarket to experience the travel rehearsal, was chatting with ease with the pilot, who was fresh off a flight from Frankfurt, Germany. Callens has volunteered with “Wings for All” before and said she wouldn’t have missed this opportunity, “no matter what.”

Kelsi’s mom, Ann, was thrilled at how things were going. Up to now, she wasn’t sure how her daughter would react to the noises, the lines, and the typical whirlwind of humanity that can be found at the airport. “There have been no plane trips,” she said. “She’s thought about a trip to Maine, just for the peace and the beauty, or maybe a trip to see family in Chicago. “I think we can really start thinking about those trips now.”

Robbie Frost, an 11-year-old from Centreville, didn’t seem too shy or really too bothered by the wait at the gate. Surrounded by his grandparents Marsha and Lawrence Frost, from Springfield, and accompanied by his brother Tanner, Robbie had one word for the day’s activities so far: “Awesome!”

AT LAST, the call was given to begin boarding and everyone lined up according to their boarding pass group number. The walk down the jetway did bring on a few frowns, especially from Giovanni Solis-Sosa, but for the youngster from Manassas, there were too many interesting things to check out once he and his family had found their seats, so smiles once again became the order of the day.

The all-volunteer flight crew were prepared for their special passengers. Several of the participants had to be carefully transferred from their own wheelchairs onto special “aisle chairs” that can fit in the narrow cabin space, and then transferred again into their assigned seats. At the end of the flight, this process had to be performed in reverse, but was accomplished with minimal fuss and discomfort for the passenger.

See WINGS FOR ALL, Page 12
Family Connection

Backyard Adventure Ideas for a spring break family staycation.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

For Katie Wendel, a spring break vacation this year won’t mean loading up the car and driving several hundred miles or waiting in long lines at the airport. While the Bethesda mother of five is planning to enjoy some relaxing downtime with her family, she won’t venture far from home.

“We’re going to be tourists this year and visit the monuments and museums in Washington. We’re also going to try to find every avenue in the city that’s named after a state,” said Wendel. “If you think about it, there’s so much to do in this area that we all take for granted. You really don’t have to leave the area to feel like you’re in another city.”

From museum exhibits to adventure centers, a goldmine of family getaways abounds locally. There are even activities for family bonding available without leaving home.

“Ask the kids what they would like to do. Involve them and give them a choice. Whatever it is they suggest, come up with a plan to document their adventure so they can share it with grandparents or siblings away at college, said Lois Stover, Ph.D., dean, School of Education and Human Services at Marymount University.

“Let them help plan the Metro route or just look at the Metro map and randomly pick a station and explore that area.”

“A lot of adults assume that kids want a big trip, but a lot of times a kid will say, ‘I want to blow bubbles in the back yard.’ It’s important for children to have a say in how the family uses its free time,” said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College.

Among the recommendations that Stover offers are activities at one’s neighborhood library and trips to indoor public swimming pools. For animal-loving families the National Zoo offers beasts ranging from elephants and eagles to tigers and frogs.

“Get outside and take the family to one of the lesser known national parks, like Prince William or walk the C&O Canal,” said Stover. “There’s also Gravelly Point Park near Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, which is ideal for family picnics, games of kickball or simply watching airplanes take off and land.

“It if’s warm, do a beach day in the backyard [or] set up an indoor mini-golf course with Nerf balls [or use] Wiffle balls and bats,” said Stover. “Have a dance party, a science day. Have a ‘Today is Blue, or whatever color works, Day,’ so everyone wears blue, all foods are blue, you ride the blue line Metro just to see where it goes, [for example].”

Local national parks like Theodore Roosevelt Island are ideal for family staycations, says Lois Stover, Ph.D. of Marymount University.

“There are times when a staycation can be more relaxing than travel, says Lorente. “If you look at the list of the top 100 stressors in life, taking a vacation is on the list,” she said. “A staycation, when done with purpose, can really be good.”

Advanced planning is a key to making that time spent together meaningful, advises Lorente. “A lot of times people say they’re taking a staycation and they end up doing chores around the house. And everybody is on their electronics,” she said. “But it’s really about family bonding and everyone coming together and creating shared experiences as a family.”

The U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory on the National Mall is where Stephanie Kleinman is planning to take her twin daughters during spring break.

“The girls call it a museum for plants, and it’s neat to go from the desert to the jungle all within one building,” said Kleinman who lives in McLean. “We’ll probably check out some of the other museums while we’re downtown.”

There are times when a staycation can be more relaxing than travel, says Lorente. “If you look at the list of the top 100 stressors in life, taking a vacation is on the list,” she said. “A staycation, when done with purpose, can really be good.”

Advanced planning is a key to making that time spent together meaningful, advises Lorente. “A lot of times people say they’re taking a staycation and they end up doing chores around the house. And everybody is on their electronics,” she said. “But it’s really about family bonding and everyone coming together and creating shared experiences as a family.”

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7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
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

Bring Your Own Basket!

Easter Egg-Stravanza
Go to the booking calendar at: roerszoofari.com
and choose
April 8, 9, 15 or 16
9am-6pm
Advanced tickets required.

Hourly Easter Egg Hunts for separate age groups 10a-4p

The Rev. John C. N. Hall, Rector
The Rev. Laura Cochran
703-437-6530
www.stannes-reston.org
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

ENTERTAINMENT

CampVentures
April 1's the CampVentures event, 10-noon at Kiddie Academy of Reston, 12320 Pinecrest Road, Suite 150, Reston. Local families seeking summer camp programs for children ages 2-12 years old are invited. Visit kiddleacademy.com/academies/reston/ for more.

Send announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Fri.

ONGOING

Easter Egg-Stravanza
April 8, 9, 15 or 16
9am-6pm
Advanced tickets required.

Hourly Easter Egg Hunts for separate age groups 10a-4p

Slave Life Exhibit. Through March 31, various times at the Sully Historic Site, 3600 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. $7 adults, $6 students, and $5 seniors and children age 5-15. Artifacts excavated from around Sully’s 18th-century slave cabins. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/ or call 703-437-1794.

Mosaic Art with Anita Damron. Mondays through April 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. All mosaic methods taught in this class. $200 + a $50 supplies. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

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SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter

www.reston.org

You are invited to Reston Association’s
ANNUAL MEETING
2017

Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Reston Association Headquarters
12001 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20191

Hear reports on the state of the association.
Learn the results of the 2017 Board of Directors Election.

www.RestonAssociation.com
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, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com.

“A Bird in the Hand” through spring 2017 Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market Street, Reston Town Center. See and explore Patrick Dougherty’s monumental public art sculptures made from tree saplings. Presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org

Emerging Visions: Interactions. Various times through April 1 at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston. After viewing Shih Chieh Huang: Synthetic Transformations, students were asked to explore different interpretations and aspects of interactions. The final selections will be on view in the gallery. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242 for more.

MARCH 31–APRIL 2
Rings for Spring Bridal Event. Various times by appointment at Midtown Jewelers, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Reston. Selection of engagement rings and wedding bands from designers. Specials available only for this weekend. Call 703-707-9663 or visit midtownjewelers.com for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1
Watershed Cleanup Day. 8 a.m.–noon at Runnymede Park, 195 Herndon Parkway, Runnymede Park and Sugarland Run watershed cleanup day and shred. Volunteers should dress for the weather, wear boots with sturdy soles, and bring work gloves, and there will be a free secure document shred truck on the premises too. Visit tinyurl.com/HerndonCleanup or call 703-435-6800 x 2014 for more.

Swim Team Tryouts. 10 a.m.-noon at Life Time Swim, 1757 Business Center Drive, Reston. Open to members and non-members, ages 5+. Life Time Swim Team is a part of USA Swimming and offers weekly practices, specialized training, regular competitions and the chance to win awards. Call 571-512-3500.

CampVentures. 10 a.m.–noon at Kidville Academy of Reston, 12320 Pinecrest Road, Suite 150, Reston. Local families seeking summer camp programs for children ages 2-12 years old are invited. Visit kidvilleacademy.com/academies/reston/for more

Medicinal Plants in the Civil War. 4-5 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. The program includes a guided hike around the Frying Pan Meeting House to learn to spot the plants that were used to heal during scarce times and find out how they were put to use. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/

SUNDAY/APRIL 2
Tidewater Guitar Quartet. 4-6 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Tidewater Guitar Orchestra members John Boyles, Sam Dorsey, Todd Holcomb and Cliff Morris have recently come together with guitars. Call 703-956-6590 for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 7
Senior Tea. 10:30-noon at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. View the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea on the second Friday of the month, all teas are free and open to the public. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9560 for more.

Meditation for Peace and Well-being. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 12200 Towne Drive, Reston. Longtime meditator Gerry Gorman will share a simple technique of spiritual meditation that can help achieve a lasting state of peace and happiness. For adults, free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.
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**Zone 1 Ad Deadline: Monday Noon**

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**Zone 2: The Springfield Connection**

**Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet**

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PART-TIME RETAIL

Energetic and friendly individual needed for busy backyard nature store in the Reston area. Must have knowledge of backyard birds and be customer service oriented. 15-20 hours per week. Weekday & weekend hours required. Ph 703-403-1283.

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EMPLOYMENT

By KENNETH E. LOUIE

Recently I went online to book a trip to Tepoztlan, 80 to meet our new niece, Sabella Rey. I went to Trivago for the hotel reserva-

tions and Expedia for the plane/rental car res-

ervations. That’s what I’m supposed to do,

right? The process seemed simple enough and

without much further ado, I was able to make all the arrangements, including renting a car for the four days we’d need one. And I even booked my father-in-law’s hotel reserva-

tions as well, almost as if I knew what I was doing.

Accordingly, I received all my email con-

firmations indicating that I had in fact suc-

ceeded in one of my least favorite endeavors: computing my way to safe and secure travel plans.

For a few days, especially after receiving the site’s emails and reviewing them for accu-

racy, I thought all was right in my travel-plan’s world. Then I started receiving multiple emails and pop-up ads from sites promoting their hotel and flight reservations/ rates. Expedia, the site on which I made my plane reservations, began bombarding me with flight and rental car deals. Trivago, the site on which I made our hotel reservations, began bombarding me with hotel and rental car deals. None of which I needed. All of which had been completed when I went on their sites originally and made my hotel, flight, and car rental reservations.

Given the way in which the Internet has changed the world and provided computerized access to almost everything, I was only slightly surprised by the bombardment. I’m clear on the concept, just not confident in the process. Nevertheless, I realize there really isn’t any alternative these days to searching, goods and services — and prices. My dilemma arose after the fact when I received all these offers, made the exact goods and services I already booked. What had I done, and how much extra money — and hassle had I done it?

I thought I was solving a problem travel plans which involved coordinating our flight arrival in Kansas City from Baltimore, with my father-in-law’s flight arrival from New York City, not creating one. After reclassifying all these offers and inducements from Expedia, Trivago and others, I’m now wondering if I missed an opportunity to simplify our travel plans and spend less for having done so?

Obviously, I don’t have an answer since I hadn’t the patience and besides, certainly recouping the airlines, wouldn’t there be penalties for changing/canceling a flight? And what about my father-in-law’s air-line reservations? It was all too much to juggle so I stood pat. Soon, the ads and emails slowed down to a trickle and I was no longer remained — regularly, about my presumptive incompetence.

But I’m thinking about the next trip now, and perhaps that was the point. Maybe there is a better way to minimize travel expenses and maximize benefits? But how do I accom-

plish that, really? It’s not like I can fake hotel/plane/car rental reservations in hopes that the site’s artificial intelligence will think I’m still a potential buyer rather than one who had already bought. What possible use do that? The solicitations are designed for current action not for a definite maybe sometime in the future, aren’t they?

I’m certainly more aware now of how the process sort of works. But I’m less certain how I could actually change my behavior in order to become less of a victim and more of a beneficiary. I imagine it has to do with making my journey more of a friend, which doesn’t interest me in the least. Of course, I want to pay less for my travel plans, but I’m not sure if the cost of doing business that way is worth the pain and suffering it inevitably will cause.

Kenny Louie is an Advertising Representative for the Reston Connection. A local citizen who enjoys most of the things that make our community a great place to live.

HOW DO I KNOW THEN WHAT I DON’T KNOW NOW?

From Page 9

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Founder’s Day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza; 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. A celebration of the 53rd anniversary of Reston’s founding. Visit www.restonmuseum.org or call 703-709-7700 for more.

Aqua Egg Hunt. 1:30 p.m. at Herndon Community Center pool, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Children will collect as many floating and sinking eggs as possible in the time allowed. $10. Open swim at 4 p.m. Visit herndon-va.gov.

Fiber Artist Workshop. 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Join fiber artist, Cecile Batchelor, in making a quilt with paper. In this two-hour session, children will learn a little bit about tessellations, color theory, and how to construct a quilt. Ages 10-14. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-795-9560 for more.

CLASSICAL BALLET THEATRE. 7:30 p.m. at CenterStage at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Complimentary pre-performance cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.crtba.org or call the box office at 703-476-4500.

APRIL 11-13

Spring Break Art Camp. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Art teacher Emily VanDeburg will focus on drawing, acrylic painting, and mixed media with an emphasis on specific styles and master’s work. Call 703-956-6590 or email dimundro@artspaceherndon.com.

APRIL 11-5 MAY

The Art of Resilience. 10-noon at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. An exhibit showcasing the artwork of Azriel and Irene Auer. Reception April 29, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-795-9560 for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 12

Trends in TV Viewing. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Allan Hade from the Fairfax County’s Department of Consumer and Cable Services will cover the “enabling devices” required to access television channel services. For adults. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

ENTERTAINMENT

Founder’s Day Show Opens at Lake Anne

The League of Reston Artists presents their annual Founder’s Day exhibit in honor of the group’s founder, Patricia MacIntyre. MacIntyre will judge the painted and mixed media entries that illustrate the theme of “A Respite from Chaos.”

The opening reception, on Sunday, April 9 from 2-4 p.m. at the ArtSpace Herndon Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston.

Visit the League of Reston Artists website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more information on this and other events.

Photographers: Join Lake Anne Exhibit

The Reston Photographic Society, a special interest group of the League of Reston Artists, invites photographers to enter photographs in the RPS at Lake Anne show by June 2 through the web site. Entries will be judged and $1,000 in prizes will be awarded at the reception on Sunday, June 11 from 2-4 p.m. at the gallery.

The exhibit runs from June 5 through July 2 and is free and open to the public 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston.

Visit the League of Reston Artists website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more information on this and other events.

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Reston Connection – March 29 – April 4, 2017 – 11

“Budapest Bridge,” photographed by Dawn Murphy, captures the romance of Budapest’s nightlife along the Danube River. This photograph is an entry in the Reston Photographic Society’s exhibit at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne from June 5-July 2.

The Great Falls Connection

The Vienna/Oakton Connection

The Springfield Connection

The Fairfax Station/Clifton/ Lorton Connection

The McLean Connection

The Vienna/Oakton Connection

The Alexandria Gazette Packet

The McLean Connection

The Great Falls Connection

The Arlington Connection

The Vienna/Dakota Connection

The Fairfax Station/Clifton/ Lorton Connection

The McLean Connection

The Great Falls Connection

From the month, from September-November and January-May. Join fellow photographers from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. RPS is a special-interest group of the League of Reston Artists. Share information and enjoy guest speakers, workshops and group critiques. Nonmembers are welcome. Visit the League of Reston Artists website at www-leagueofrestonartists.org for more.

Visit the League of Reston Artists website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more information on this and other events.

THEARTOFRESILIENCE
Seven women from around Fairfax County were recognized March 22 as “Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business” by the Fairfax County Commission for Women. From left are Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Siobhan Green, Ashley W. Chen, Connie Constance Cordovilla, Staci L. Redmon, Lovey Hammel, Patricia “Pat” Saah Bayliss, Board Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sondra Seba Hemenway.

Chairman Sharon Bulova (right) and Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), left, helped present a Board of Supervisors proclamation naming March 2017 Virginia Women’s History Month.

More information about the Commission For Women’s 2017 honorees is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw.