

Reston CONNECTION

Brian Hood of Reston, Bonnie Tang and their son Noah, 2 and a half years old, with the Reston Mom's group at Reston Town Center's 27th annual Holiday Parade on Friday.

PHOTO BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 12 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

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NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 5, 2017

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WOKER/THE CONNECTION

Caliber Reston Branch Manager Rob Molthen, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce CEO Mark Ingrao, Lindsay Simmons and Katie Simmons Hickey of the Simmons Team, cut the ribbon on their new offices at 12010 Sunset Hills in Reston.

Caliber Home Loans and the Simmons Team Open Reston Branch

Caliber Home Loans, Inc., #3 on Mortgage Executive Magazine's "Top Mortgage Companies in America" list has opened a new branch adjacent to Reston Town Center. Moving into the new digs, right alongside them, are their associ-

ates, the loan consultants of the Simmons Team. The Simmons Team is home grown. Sisters Katie Simmons Hickey and Lindsay Simmons come from a family of developers, builders, brokers and loan of-

SEE OPENING, PAGE 7



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Protesting Gun Violence Universal background checks tops the list for NRA protesters.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

More than 70 people stood their ground on gun violence Nov. 14 and reminded the National Rifle Association of the need for tougher laws in the wake of another mass shooting two weeks ago in Texas — where 26 churchgoers were slain and 20 wounded in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs.

Northern Virginia residents held protest signs for motorists driving past the powerful lobby's national headquarters at 11250 Waples Mill Road in Fairfax.

Participants in these protests said they have seen cars speed past them in the turn lane during previous protests, and watched some drivers make other ill-mannered gestures.

"There are people coming into the NRA who don't like us," says Kris Gregory of the Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence. Although she believes association employees are respectful, Gregory understands the NRA is open to the general public. She is aware visitors of the National Firearms Museum and firing range may not appreciate the sight of protesters.

GREGORY NOTES some motorists respond favorably to their public awareness campaign by shouting words of encouragement, beeping their car horns or giving a thumbs-up gesture in approval.

The presence of local law enforcement is low-key, she believes, "Because we are peaceful and nonviolent." Fairfax County Police keeps a watchful eye as cruisers patrol Waples Mill Road. Only joint-action protests, Gregory states, warrant a large police presence — such as the CodePink "die-in" demonstration held Tuesday, June 21, 2016.

Gregory says her grassroots organization in Falls Church formed after the Dec. 14, 2012 massacre in Newtown, Conn. — where 20 school children and six adults were fatally shot inside the Sandy Hook Elementary School. The 20-year-old gunman first shot and killed his 52-year-old mother, a gun enthusiast, at home. Online reports say among the firearms used by the gunman was the Bushmaster AR-15 military-style assault rifle.

The soft-spoken volunteer activist states Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence and other advocacy groups in Northern Virginia meet in front of the NRA on the 14th of every month in memory of the lives lost in the Newtown slaying and to "raise awareness of gun violence and the toll it takes on all of us," Gregory says.

She points out "So many people here are unaware the NRA headquarters is in our backyard." Gregory believes the lobby has done a very good job of confusing people with claims that gun safety laws undermine the Second Amendment rights of citizens



Activists against gun violence line the sidewalk Nov. 14 in front of the headquarters of the National Rifle Association at 11250 Waples Mill Road in Fairfax, where they hold protest signs for passing motorists as part of their awareness campaign. This regular gathering is an open-action protest and signs are provided to those who want to participate on the 14th of each month.

under the U.S. Constitution.

For example, most Americans understand people who purchase firearms are screened by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, run by the FBI since 1998. Gregory claims the process is voluntary in Virginia, and retailers and private dealers aren't required to conduct background checks. She adds local gun safety advocates are calling for "universal background checks at the federal and state levels for all sales and transfers of firearms."

Gregory isn't opposed to the lawful ownership of weapons under the Bill of Rights. "A convicted felon or domestic abuser should not have the same gun rights as law-abiding citizens," she maintains.

Gregory points out state legislator Del. Kenneth "Ken" R. Plum (D-36) of Reston is the lawmaker who has stood consistently with gun safety advocates each month, since their first protest Jan. 14, 2013.

"I find these mass shootings to be so offensive," said Plum. The retired school teacher hasn't forgotten about the souls lost at Virginia Tech and Sandy Hook.

"And the list grows longer and still nothing is done," he explains Nov. 20.

The theme of the regular vigil at the NRA — "we are never going to forget the need for sensible gun laws" — is what propels Plum to attend as often as he can. He and other participants of the protest feel the urgency to keep reminding folks the killings are still going on. The state lawmaker emphasizes "We need to take action."

"Nobody is proposing taking away everyone's guns," Plum maintains, "but we can take action on enacting sensible gun safety measures." In January, the delegate will make his fourth try at General Assem-

bly to introduce a statewide universal background check bill to remove loopholes in the purchase of guns.

Plum — the longest-serving member of the Virginia House of Delegates — is encouraged by recent winners of the Nov. 7 General Election, led by executive branch team Gov.-elect Ralph S. Northam, Lt. Gov.-elect Justin E. Fairfax and the re-elected Attorney General Mark R. Herring. Plum states in his recent written opinion a more evenly split partisan composition in the legislative branch has worked out in the past to help state lawmakers focus on problem solving versus "simply getting credit."

NEXT MONTH'S PROTEST at the NRA headquarters marks five years since the killing spree at Sandy Hook Elementary School. An interfaith prayer vigil, led by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, is planned for Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon by the Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

"We have been here without fail since Jan. 14, 2013," Gregory said, "for all victims and survivors of gun violence."



Kris Gregory of the Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence in Falls Church stands on the sidewalk Nov. 14 at 11250 Waples Mill Road, and remembers victims of last week's mass shooting in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

PHOTOS BY
MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY ROBERT HEALY/THE CONNECTION

From left: South Lakes High School students Aidan Protheore, 10th grade; Jordan Roberts, 12th grade; Amelia Flavin, 10th grade; and Zayyan Budiman, 11th grade; pictured at Artspeaks.



Jordan Roberts, a South Lakes High School 12th grader from Reston, pictured with her Artspeaks piece.



Zayyan Budiman, a South Lakes High School 11th grader of Reston, shows her work on what she calls "American Girl."



Aidan Protheore, a 10th grader from South Lakes High School, shows his pictures.

Artspeaks at South Lakes High

While political talks continue to swirl in the media, students have their opinion on the subject and were able to find their voice on Saturday, Nov. 18 at Artspeaks Community Art Space on the campus of the Unitarian Congregation in Oakton.

Artspeaks places visual art paired with words and stories behind the works to give them depth. South Lakes High School students displayed 27 works on the theme Red States / Blue States, including photos, drawings, digital images, sculpture and a couple of "installation" pieces. A faceless girl with blue and red anemone flowers blooming behind her by Zayyan

Budiman, an 11th grader from Reston, offered hope and anticipation for the future. Kelsey Mclain, a 10th grader, painted a map of the United States divided in various blue and red patterns to represent that "though we are divided and argue, beneath the surface we want the same thing."

Deborah Kennedy from Vienna organized this event and said that many times we are listening only to the voices we know, and having adolescents voice their opinions can be refreshing. Artspeaks not only brings art to communities but focuses on music as well.

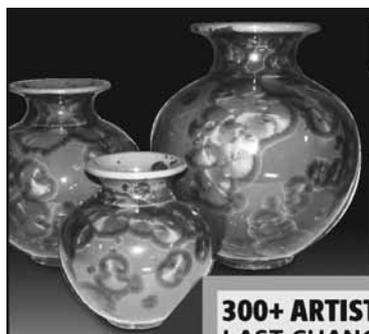
— ROBERT HEALY

WEEK IN RESTON

Jingle on Lake Anne on Saturday, Dec. 2

The free holiday event hosted by Lake Anne Merchants, will include a variety of festive activities – including a visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), music, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday

- arts and crafts market, and more.
- ❖ 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Farmer's and Craft Market
 - ❖ 10 a.m.-noon – Cookie and Kid Crafts
 - ❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Elementary School Choir
 - ❖ Noon – Santa arrives with paddle-board Elves
 - ❖ 12-2 p.m. – Pictures with Santa
 - ❖ 1:30 p.m. – Winter Wonderland at the Fountain
 - ❖ 4 p.m. – Live Music on the Plaza



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SCHOOLS

Send school notes to north@connectionnews papers.com by noon on Friday.

Hannah Woo Baker, of Reston, earned a B.S. in commerce business administration from The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) during ceremonies on Aug. 5.

Christine E. Roesch, of Reston, earned a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) during ceremonies on Aug. 5.

Two hundred twenty-three Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students from 17 high schools have been named semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), which also serves as the Governor's Regional School for Northern Virginia, has 145 semifinalists. All semifinalists are eligible to compete for 7,500 National Merit Scholarship awards worth \$32 million, to be awarded in spring 2018. FCPS 2018 National Merit semifinalists are:

- ❖ Herndon High School: **Michael Barth**.
- ❖ South Lakes High School: **Rohan Chandra** and **Eshaan Sarup**.

Joya S. Lee, of Reston, graduated from Boston University (Mass.) in September 2017 with a Master of Social Work in social work.

Three Fairfax County public schools have been awarded the Col. Charles E. Savedge Award for Sustained Excellence in Scholastic Journalism by the Virginia High School League (VHSL). Winners are "Odyssey," **Chantilly High School's** yearbook; "Freebird," **South Lakes High School's** yearbook; and "tjTodayOnline," the online news publication of **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology**.

Vocal musicians from 14 Fairfax County public schools have been named to the Virginia Honors Choir for 2017.

Thirty-four Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students were selected for the choir, and five students were named as alternates. This select choir is open to the top 125 singers from around the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is the highest honor a choir student can attain during his or her high school career. FCPS students named to the 2017 Virginia Honors Choir include: **Mackenzie Moy** and alternate **Aaron Miller** from South Lakes High School.

Sarah Blanton, of Herndon, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus, located in Madison, N.J., has graduated with a B.A. in film and animation.

Herndon High School student **Elsa Arita** is one of five students in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area recognized at the Children's Defense Fund 2017 Beat the Odds celebration. The event is designed to highlight the achievements of local students who have overcome extraordinary adversity to excel academically and give back to their communities.

Arita, who has a 3.3 grade point average at Herndon, was born into poverty to a single mother. At an early age, she learned the importance of education and the meaning of hard work as she watched her mother finish sixth grade at the age of 32.

She dedicated herself to studying, unsure if her family's financial situation would require her to get a job and sideline her education. Today, she studies and works six days a week and aspires to become an attorney.

Students recognized will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship, a laptop computer, and will become part of the CDF's youth leadership and development program.

A recognition ceremony was scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 7, in the Annenberg Theater at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.



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A light meal or snack may be provided.

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Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2017, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2018, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,100 to \$4,150¹
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$11,685 to \$13,420
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,240 to \$1,260¹
4. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.81 to \$2.94 per 1,000 gallons of water
5. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$44 to \$45
6. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge
7. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$35 to \$36

¹ Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$178.7 million budget² for calendar year 2018. Revenues are expected to be \$178.7 million in 2018. Water sales are expected to provide \$155.8 million. Approximately \$22.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2017	2018
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 54,270	\$ 55,983
Power and Utilities	10,468	10,670
Chemicals	6,846	7,732
Purchased Water	7,677	6,340
Supplies and Materials	4,850	5,102
Insurance	1,186	1,200
Fuel	595	655
Postage	611	614
Contractual Services	11,252	11,610
Professional Services	990	1,025
Other	2,280	2,503
Sub-Total	101,025	103,634
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,991)	(10,248)
Total	\$ 91,034	\$ 93,386

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:	
Debt Payment	\$42,981,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,087,000

² Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. A copy of the proposed budget can be found at www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 to be included in the record of the public hearing.



Members of Bolivian Tinkus San Simon get ready to perform at Reston Town Center's 27th annual Holiday Parade on Friday.



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: Ayda Lopez and Alejandra Villareal pictured, as members of Bolivian Tinkus San Simon get ready to perform at Reston Town Center's 27th annual Holiday Parade on Friday.

Reston Holds Holiday Parade 27th Annual Reston Town Center parade kicks off holiday festivities.

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Reston Town Center's 27th annual Holiday Parade kicked off Black Friday with floats, Macy's-style parade balloons, music, and even Santa Claus. The parade is a holiday tradition in Reston, where it marks the lighting of the Reston Town Center Christmas tree and attracts thousands of visitors from all over Virginia, D.C. and Maryland.

Reston's multi-cultural communities showcased their holiday spirit at the Town Center, and brought with them, their special dress, music, and traditional dance.

"I love getting to see all of the people in the holiday spirit," said Leslie Jackson, 18, a freshman at University of Virginia who was wearing her Teen Ms. Earth U.S. sash. "The pageant helped me have an opportunity to show passion for the environment.

This isn't my first parade, I've done a few others," she said.

Brian Hood and Bonnie Tang of Reston were also present at the parade with their son Noah, 2 and a half years old. "We are here in support of the Reston Mom's group, which has been great for my family," said Brian Hood.

Many Reston community groups had floats in the parade including the South Lakes High School Jr. ROTC. "The parade itself is a lot of fun, marching with JROTC. It's a leadership class that doesn't have any military obligations. We learn through leadership," said Kieran Heare, a junior at South lakes High School and First Sergeant with JROTC.

Other groups included dancers, like the Jr. Redskins Cheerleaders group which included real members of the Redskins cheerleading team, and their youth counterparts who also performed.



Leslie Jackson, 18, a freshman at University of Virginia, was wearing her Teen Ms. Earth U.S. sash pictured at Reston Town Center's 27th annual Holiday Parade on Friday, Nov. 24.

The 501st Legion, Vader's First were wearing Star Wars costumes. Henrique Rangel of Herndon, his wife, Ana Gabriela Godoy, and daughter Bianca Godoy were all wearing Star Wars outfits for their part in the parade. "Star Wars is awesome," said Bianca Godoy. "it's our first time as a whole family for the parade," said Ana Gabriela Godoy who was dressed in white stormtrooper armor. There were even groups of performers who came from out of state. The Falun Dafa, Tian Guo Marching Band had just arrived from Philadelphia where they were performing in the West Chester Thanksgiving Parade the day before.

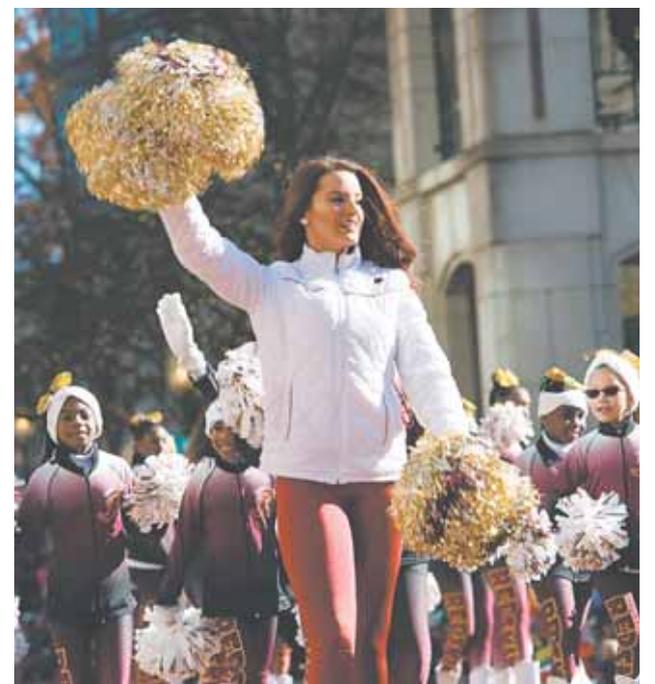
"This is also our first time here. As a group, we promote physical health and inner self practice. Because China, our country, is a communist regime, there is no freedom of religion so I feel very lucky to be brought up in the west, and very lucky to be in America."



Henrique Rangel of Herndon, daughter Bianca Godoy and wife, Ana Gabriela Godoy, were all wearing Star Wars outfits as part of 501st Legion, Vader's First at Reston Town Center's 27th annual Holiday Parade on Friday.



People buy stuffed animals and noise makers from a vendor at Reston Town Center's 27th annual Holiday Parade on Friday, Nov. 24.



Redskins cheerleaders and their junior counterparts marched in Reston Town Center's 27th annual Holiday Parade on Friday.

Opening

FROM PAGE 2

ficers. “We’re here today,” said Hickey at the celebratory party and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new offices, “because we followed in Mom’s footsteps – 30 years in the business.”

The sisters grew up in Great Falls, attended Great Falls Elementary, Cooper Middle School and graduated from Langley High School. They even attended the same college, Clemson, with elder sister Katie earning a BBA in marketing, and Lindsay graduating summa cum laude with a BA in communications.

The Simmons team has been operating at a number of locations since their formation, but they are ready to call this new space home, and look forward to helping their neighbors achieve all of their homeownership dreams.

Caliber, which serves the entire nation, stands out from many of their competitors, say the Simmons sisters and Caliber Reston Branch Manager Rob Molthen, for a number of reasons. “It’s what we do,” said Lindsay Simmons, referring to the fact that unlike banks and other lenders, they focus strictly on mortgages, “making us the real experts and able to offer so many customized choices.”

Caliber services the majority of the loans they close, rather than selling them off to another bank or lending institution. They



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Branch Manager Rob Molthen accepts a certificate from Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce CEO Mark Ingrao, celebrating the opening of Caliber and the Simmons Team’s new Reston branch and their membership in the Chamber.

see this ability to build lasting relationships as a large part of their success. Caliber Reston and the Simmons Team are open for business at 12010 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 201. Lindsay Simmons invites all current or prospective homeowners to “please stop by and let’s see how we can help you.”

— ANDREA WORKER

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Wonder and Joy

<p>The Wonder of the Season: Susa's Carols & Lullabies Saturday, December 2 4:00 and 7:00 pm Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, Reston</p> <p>Guest Artists: Cristian Perez, <i>Guitar</i> Isabelle Frouvelle, <i>Harp</i> John Kilkenny, <i>Marimba and Vibraphone</i></p>	<p>Reston Sings! Handel's Messiah Tuesday, December 5 7:30 pm Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, Reston</p> <p>Guest Artists: Katie Baughman, <i>Soprano</i> Linda Maguire, <i>Mezzo</i> Dennys Moura, <i>Tenor</i> Jason Widney, <i>Bass</i></p>
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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Cotton Collective Art. Through Dec. 2 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Exhibit called "The Fabric of Families Center Street Cotton Collective." Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

Reston Farm Market, Saturdays, through Dec. 9, 8 a.m. - Noon, Lake Anne Village Center, 11401 North Shore Drive, SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program. (CLOSED for Multicultural Festival Sept. 23)

Jazz in the City Exhibit. Various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Kristine Keller and Robert Gilbert paint with an interest in New York. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., 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.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more.

Art Exhibit through Jan. 8 at Artsights, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. "Drag, Disney, Art Insights and Art Outsiders: The Art of Tennessee Loveless," see the new collection by Tennessee Loveless including his retrospective book 10x10x10 and images from his projects. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

THROUGH NOV. 30

Sweats for Vets Drive. Not Your Average Joe's is partnering with the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation in Reston to raise money to help area veterans. Mention the "Sweats for Vets," drive while being served lunch or dinner in the restaurant and NYAJ's is donating 15 percent of the cost of your meal to our Sweats for Vets veterans program. Visit nwfcufoundation.org.

NOV. 24-JAN. 4

Gingerbread Village. Various times at the Hyatt Regency Reston, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. See the annual display in the hotel lobby. Call 703-709-1234 or visit reston.hyatt.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 30

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Poet Alan King will read from and sign his new book "Point Blank." Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 1

Open Mic Poetry Night. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featured members of the Poetry Society of Virginia will be present to share their poetry. An open mic will follow, allowing for anyone attending to have a moment on stage. This event is free and open to the public. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Jingle on Lake Anne. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at



Art Exhibit

Wall hanging is part of a cotton collective art show on exhibit through Dec. 2 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Exhibit called "The Fabric of Families Center Street Cotton Collective." Call 703-956-9560 or visit artspaceherndon.com for more.

BY LYNN PURPLE

Lake Anne, Reston. The free holiday event hosted by Lake Anne Merchants, will include a visit from Santa arriving on a lake barge, music, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market. Visit info@lakeanneplaza.com.

Museum Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at Lake Anne, Reston. Browse exhibitions, find Reston-inspired gifts, hot chocolate and cookies while they last. Author Watt Hamlett and illustrator Jill Ollison Vinson will have a book signing of "Reston A to Z." Visit info@lakeanneplaza.com.

Pop Up Art Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Join us at ArtSpace during the Homes Tour for a Pop-up Art Show featuring local artists like Sandi Volpe & Andrew Black. Come in to browse some handmade pieces while having a snack and warming up from the cold. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

Meet the Christmas Author. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Sue Fliess will be doing a storytime reading and book signing with her new Christmas book "We Wish for a Monster Christmas." Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Gifts from the Heart. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery and 3D Gallery, Reston Community Center, Lake Anne at 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Artist entry fees and 10 percent of all sales will be donated to Cornerstones. Exhibit items will remain on display through Feb. 21. Call 703-390-6187.

Children's Crafts at Santa's Workshop. 12:30-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Meet the Author. 8 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Terry Tempest Williams will talk about her book "The Hour of Land." Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

DEC. 2-18

Willy Wonka on Stage. Various times at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop's professional company on stage for Charlie Bucket's visit to Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory. \$25; family (4+) and group (10+) discounts available. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Run with Santa 5K. 8:30 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Jump into the season's spirit and wear the favorite holiday gear or costume. Free kids fun-run with finisher medals. Call 703-689-0999 or visit praces.com/runwithsanta.

Herndon's 39th Annual Holiday Arts and Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Over 80 artisans and crafts will exhibit and sell their handmade work at this annual arts and crafts show sponsored by the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department. Call 703-435-6800, ext. 2109 or email john.walsh@herndon-va.gov.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Holidays on the Farm. 10-11:30 a.m. or 1:30-3 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park's Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Take a wagon ride with Santa and write him a letter with all your Christmas wishes. Decorate cookies, play games and make a seasonal craft. \$8. Call 703-437-9101 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

Mini-Train Rides. noon-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Holiday Crafts Day. Various times at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy Christmas at the Farm, write letters to Santa, decorate cookies, take a wagon ride with Santa, and enjoy seasonal craft projects. Call 703-437-9101.

TUESDAY/DEC. 5

Computer Coding Class. 6:30 p.m. at

the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Learn the basic concepts of coding in this national computer science initiative. Call 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/DEC. 7

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Suzanne Scurlock-Durana will be doing a guided meditation/reading/ book signing of her book "Reclaiming Your Body: Healing from Trauma and Awakening Your Body's Wisdom." Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

DEC. 8-9

Christmas Store Help Needed. Friday night for set up and Saturday to escort shoppers at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE. Call 703-938-7213.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Winter Festival. 10 a.m.-noon at The Goddard School - Herndon, 2400 Dulles Town Blvd. Breakfast with Santa, Face painting, dancing with a princess, cookie decorating, raffle prize, festive crafts, and games. \$5. Email herndonVA@goddardschools.com or call 703-653-0337.

Meet the Author. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Dar Williams will be at the store to sing and sign copies of her book "What I Found in 1000 Towns: A Traveling Musician's Guide to Rebuilding America's Communities — One Coffee Shop, Dog Run, and Open-Mic Night at a Time." Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Gray Goose Studios Class. 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Children and teens can create art in the medium of their choice with assistance from the instructor as needed. Drawing, painting, collage, mosaic, and sculpture supplies provided. Artists can choose one medium or work in mixed media. \$25. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900

Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Holidays on the Farm. 10-11:30 a.m. or 1:30-3 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park's Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Take a wagon ride with Santa and write him a letter with Christmas wishes. Decorate cookies, play games and make a seasonal craft. \$8. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Mini-Train Rides. noon-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Kids Yarn Workshop. 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Pakistani-American fine artist and sculptor Asma Chaudhary will present an interactive yarn wrapping experience with participants to use embroidery yarn, bells, and pipe cleaners and attach them to various repurposed and recycled objects often found around in homes such as baskets, kitchenware, furniture, and bird cages. \$15. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

Holiday Crafts Day. Various times at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy Christmas at the Farm, write letters to Santa, decorate cookies, take a wagon ride with Santa, and enjoy seasonal craft projects. Call 703-437-9101.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Alan Tom will be launching his new book "The Disgusting Adventures of Bugaboo and Buzz Buzz: Into the Toilet of Doom." Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.
Children's Christmas Shop. 2-5 p.m. at the United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Gifts for mom and dad, grandparents, siblings and even the favorite pet are available for children to buy. All gifts are affordable (most are under \$5). Email ucpreston@ucpreston.org or call 703-620-3065.

TUESDAY/DEC. 12

Read to the Dog. 7 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call 703-689-2700.

Folk Music. 7:15 p.m. at Amphora Deluxe Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Abbie Gardner presented by The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon. \$11 (\$10 members) Call 703-925-0900 or visit www.amphoragroup.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

Gingerbread Friends. 7 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Family stories of sparkle and spice and Christmas delight. Call 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/DEC. 14

Toddler Yoga. 10:30 a.m. at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Yoga through stories and songs. Wear comfy clothes. Cosponsored by the Friends of Reston Library. Age 18-24 months with adult. Call 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/DEC. 15

Games with the Author. 6 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Challenge 5 young adult authors are coming to the store for a game night. They will be playing Mad Libs, Pictionary etc with them. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

FAITH

Add a Little Light

BY RABBI LEIBEL FAJNLAND
DIRECTOR OF CHABAD
OF RESTON-HERNDON

The Chanukah story happened so long ago – yet carries a timely message for us, even today.

Science has given us the greatest technologies and conveniences, yet it has not freed us from the moral and social challenges of our day. From gun violence and simmering racial tension, to corruption and perversion in the halls and sanctums of power, we now witness that material pursuits and successes alone, do not necessarily lead to a happy and meaningful life.

Our children need a better diet than the value-system fed to them by Hollywood, the Internet and mass media. They need, nay, they want, inspiration, a noble cause to live for, a moral purpose that frames their pursuits and interests with meaning and direction.

Judaism teaches that every human being is created in the image of the Divine, charged with the duty to illuminate his or her surroundings, to make our universe a better place, a brighter place, a holier place.

A wise sage once said, “Don’t chase away darkness with a broom; simply light a candle.” Darkness has no reality of its own – it’s merely the absence of



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rabbi Leibel Fajnland

light. Let’s teach our youth that they are the Menorah, and in a world of moral darkness, their one small act of goodness and kindness can, and will, cast a light of epic proportions – just like the tiny flask of oil that miraculously burned for eight days in the Menorah of old.

Community Chanukah Events

❖ Menorah Magic at Home Depot
Craft your very own take home

Menorah,
Sunday, Dec. 3, 3:30 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

❖ Chanukah Lighting at the Lake Anne Waterfront
The Menorahs warm glow on a cold winter night...come on there’s nothing better, Thursday, Dec. 14, 6 -7 p.m.

❖ Chanukah Bowl @ Bowl America
Join us Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. for a special evening of bowling, grand chocolate gelt drop from high above in the bucket of a Sterling fire truck. Tons of Chanukah fun for the entire family.

Visit www.chabadrh.org for information or to reserve.

For more information on the above events, call Rabbi Leibel Fajnland at 703-476-1829, visit www.chabadrh.org, or write to Rabbi@chabadrh.org.

Santa Picture Day
Saturday December 2, 2017
8 AM to 2PM

Holiday Treats and Refreshments for all. Pamper your pets @ Posh Paws Boutique, your Holiday Headquarters.

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The Children's CONNECTION 2017

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The edition has won many awards. We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens, or other creative efforts. To submit material, identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to editors@connectionnewspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 27.

Publishes December 27 | Ads Due December 15

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**South Lakes QB
 Devin Miles # 3
 hands the ball to
 South Lakes RB,
 Albert Mensah #24.**

Battling for 6A Region Championship

The Westfield Bulldogs hosted the 6A Region final against South Lakes on Nov. 25. The Bulldogs advanced to the final by defeating Battlefield, and Patriot. South Lakes defeated Yorktown and Madison to advance.

Westfield scored first when Bizzett Woodley caught the first of his two touchdown receptions with 8:09 to play in the first quarter. Gavin Kiley put Westfield up 14-0 with 10:26 to play in the second quarter. Later in the second quarter South Lakes scored when Joseph Dagbe caught a pass from QB Devin Miles and lunged into the end zone. In the third quarter, Bizzett Woodley caught his second TD pass from Noah Kim and the Bulldogs were up 21-7 with 4:45 remaining in the quarter. In the fourth quarter, Kim ran in from 5 yards out. A missed extra point would leave the score at 27-7.

For the game, Kim completed 10 of his 20 passes for 114 yards and three TDs. Eugene Asante would run for 139 yards on 19 carries and Woodley caught



Spencer Alston #21 carries the ball for South Lakes.

four passes for 60 yards and 2 TDs. South Lakes was led by Miles who completed 12 of 22 passes for 92 yards and a TD.

With the 27-7 win, the Westfield Bulldogs (13-0) will host the Woodbridge Vikings (12-1) who defeated Hylton 28-14 in the VHSL semifinal game. South Lakes (11-2) season ends for the third consecutive year to Westfield.



Albert Mensah #24 carries the ball for South Lakes while Westfield's Aaron Dishun #9 pursues.

PHOTOS BY
 WILL PALENSCAR

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THURSDAY/NOV. 30-SUNDAY/DEC. 3

- Commemoration Weekend** events will take place at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Call 703-437-7733 or visit nvhcreston.org.
- ❖ Thursday/Nov. 30, 8 p.m. – Petr Papousek, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic will speak on Czech Jewry today.
 - ❖ Friday/Dec. 1 (evening) – A special reading from the Czech scroll, along with a sample of Czech Jewish music from Kol Shirah and other music honoring the victims of the Holocaust. At this service, we will be chanting from this scroll as part of our service, and for the Aliyah would like to invite up anyone who is a Holocaust survivor or related to a survivor. Please be in touch with Cantor Caro directly if you would like to be called up for this honor.
 - ❖ Saturday/Dec. 2 (during services) – The b'nai mitzvah will read from the scroll. Following services, Shabbat lunch and conversations with two experts on both the experience of being deported and coming to grips with the aftermath. Michlean Amir will speak on the experiences of Czech Jews before, during, and immediately after the war. Mark Talisman will speak on the fate of the Czech Jews' possessions, both with respect to the Czech Torahs that were obtained by the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London and distributed worldwide and the other goods processed by the Czech Jewish Museum. To join for lunch, email Susan@susantrivers.com.
 - ❖ Sunday/Dec. 3, 11 a.m. – Fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students, their families, and anyone else who may be interested, are invited to attend a presentation by Czech Holocaust survivor Marty Weiss, followed by a brief Q&A session.

FRIDAY/DEC. 1

Health and Senior Services Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Tall Oaks Assisted Living, 12052 North Shore Drive, Reston. Mammography experts, ear, blood pressure and more. Call 703-834-9800 for more.

THROUGH DEC. 3

- Coat and Blanket Drive.** Nova Relief Center is holding a blanket and coat drive for Syrian and Iraqi refugees who have fled their homelands to escape the violence from the civil war in Syria. Paxton Van Lines and Maersk are donating their services this year. Donated blankets and coats should be new or gently worn, and may be dropped off at any designated drop-off location below. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit NOVA Relief Center's website at www.NOVAReliefCenter.org
- ❖ Oak Hill Elementary School, 3210 Kinross Circle, Herndon
 - ❖ Town of Herndon – Town Hall, 777 Lynn St., Herndon
 - ❖ The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive, Herndon
 - ❖ Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon
 - ❖ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2727 Centerville Road, Herndon
 - ❖ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1515 Poplar Grove Drive, Reston
 - ❖ Office of Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

Supervisor Hudgins Holiday Open House. 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the North County Governmental Center Community Room, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive. Email huntermillRSVP@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Application Deadline. The Reston Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on the committee. All residents of Reston, over 18 years of age are eligible to serve. The committee consists of fifteen (15) members with five (5) positions expiring each year, and three (3) associate members that serve one year terms. To apply, visit rpz.myreston.org.

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Giving Thanks for the Going



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Four hours up north with moderate hassle first thing Thanksgiving-Thursday morning. Dinner and all the fixings with family and friends upon arrival, after a midday break. Conversations and such with young, medium and old (with yours truly being the oldest of our generation) until 1:15 a.m., (a recent time record for many). Up at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast with more casual talk and noshing. Out the door at 9:15-ish heading back for an immediate day-after return trip home scheduled to make an early Friday afternoon chemotherapy infusion. Infusion completed and on the final way home, a stop at the supermarket at 4 p.m. – since we had no Thanksgiving leftovers (turkey sandwiches in particular) to satiate the deprived. Dinner as soon as possible since we were both hungry and tired after our up-and-back. Turkey breast, mashed potatoes and peas for our own leftovers, off-and-on television and napping and then we both called it at 9:15 p.m. or so.

Twelve hours later, we were both awake. What a sleep! What a 24 hours! What a wonderful holiday! I wouldn't characterize it as an ordeal. However, it was a bit of an undertaking given my Friday afternoon commitment; my first-ever, post-holiday, having-to-rush-back-from-out-of-town excursion. Though in previous years, we may have occasionally travelled up and back in the same day, when our route was two-hours to Pennsylvania where the in-laws lived, we are older and presumably wiser now and somewhat less able and inclined to travel with as little margin and rest.

Compounded of course with Kenny-with-cancer being mostly behind the wheel, a permanent designated driver since I don't drink and still see pretty well at night. Still, I'm hardly the driver I used to be and the affect of the holiday festivities on my fellow drivers is always cause for concern.

But all's well that ends well, except for the piles of Thanksgiving day-afters left where we last saw them, miles away. Nevertheless, we are happy to have made the effort, despite the less-than-ideal timing. As difficult as this kind of schedule was/had to be, I can't let, as much as possible anyway, my cancer stuff: infusions, 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, quarterly scans and yearly MRIs and quarterly appointments with my oncologist impact my semi-normal life. In fact, my oncologist has been a major proponent of my "quality of life," an advisory he has regularly encouraged.

I've always felt, from the beginning of my diagnosis/prognosis, that I was not going to live my life any differently than I had previous to 2/27/09. As challenging as that proved to be on many occasions, my goal has been to try and integrate my life around my chemotherapy – and vice versa, and to not let too many chips fall along the wayside. Moreover, my philosophy has been not to bucket a list either, but rather to simply live my usual and customary life and not be affected by my "13-month to two-year prognosis." If I was doing bucket list-type things, things that I would ordinarily not be doing, I felt that would be reinforcing a negative: that I was going to die prematurely, rather than encouraging a positive: that I am going to live.

For me, maintaining the status quo and continuing to do the little things that characterize who I am and what I value seemed more appropriate and more Kenny-like. Not sharing Thanksgiving dinner with relatives with whom I've shared a table going on nearly 40 years wouldn't have helped at all. Not now, or ever.

Finding balance – and sanity in the midst of a battle royal – vs a "terminal" diagnosis, stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, is all it's cracked up to be. A little fun, make that a lot of fun, never hurt anyone, especially those of us fighting for our lives.

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

Careful What To Wish For

Could changes in General Assembly mean some legislative requests from Northern Virginia might not be dead on arrival?

When the Virginia House of Representatives adjourned from its 2017 session, Republicans controlled the house by 66 to 34. The exact count following elections earlier in November is still unclear, but one party or the other could have a 51-49 majority, or even face a 50-50 split.

I don't recall anyone predicting this level of change. Three very close races are likely headed for recount, including one in Fairfax County, and since this is the first time all voters have used paper ballots, it's hard to predict how that will go. But one way or the other, Northern Virginia localities are likely to have more influence.

Fairfax County, along with Arlington and Alexandria, prepare a state legislative wish list each year, made all the more urgent because localities in Virginia have only the powers specifically given to them by the General Assembly. If there is any reasonable doubt whether a power has been conferred on a local government, then the locality does not have that power.

That has meant, for example, localities can only raise revenue from limited sources, can't restrict where people carry guns, can't set their own minimum wage, and can't fully control land use within their boundaries. Some haven't been able to ban discrimination on the basis

of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Not all of these restrictions are based on party affiliation.

Aside from more local authority, the top wish is for more funding.

Fairfax County's draft on funding schools: "Public education funding in the Commonwealth is enshrined in the Virginia Constitution as a joint responsibility of both state and local governments, so it is essential that the state fully meet its Constitutional responsibility to adequately fund K-12 education. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth continues to allow critical gaps to persist between state fund-

ing and the actual costs of providing a high-quality education, placing more of the fiscal burden on localities while substantially limiting local revenue sources, creating a discrepancy that has become increasingly untenable."

The one action that could produce significant funding and services with very low cost to state coffers: expanding Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act. Virginia has turned away billions of dollars, plus the jobs and healthier citizenry that come with that.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

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Three very close races are likely headed for recount, including one in Fairfax County, and since this is the first time all voters have used paper ballots, it's hard to predict how that will go. But one way or the other, Northern Virginia localities are likely to have more influence.

Fairfax County, along with Arlington and Alexandria, prepare a state legislative wish list each year, made all the more urgent because localities in Virginia have only the powers specifically given to them by the General Assembly. If there is any reasonable doubt whether a power has been conferred on a local government, then the locality does not have that power.

That has meant, for example, localities can only raise revenue from limited sources, can't restrict where people carry guns, can't set their own minimum wage, and can't fully control land use within their boundaries. Some haven't been able to ban discrimination on the basis

Next Week: More Local Giving

Next week, we will publish our lists of local nonprofits for holiday giving. If you know of an organization that should be included or whose listing needs updating, please email mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com.

Deadline Extended: Children's Edition

Submissions of student art and writing are due by Friday, Dec. 8, an extended deadline. You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition. Email submissions to the following editors:

- ❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.
- ❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

COMMENTARY

In the Name of Tax Reform

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

If there are any impartial observers left listening to the debate in Washington, D.C., on tax reform, they must be left scratching their heads over what they are hearing.

When the wealthy have never had as much money as they have today, leadership in Congress is considering a tax bill that will cut the taxes of the very richest. When income of the lowest to the middle classes has been stagnant or falling for decades, the latest tax reform proposals would raise their taxes.

Under the guise of simplifying taxes we are about to simply raise the taxes of those least able to pay and to enrich those who already have more money than they can spend in a century. Aren't there enough sensible members of Congress left who have not sold out to the monied interests to put a

stop to this craziness?

Members of Congress may tell me to tend to my own knitting at the state level, but actions at the federal level do impact state budgets. Virginia has been particularly dependent on federal spending even though there has been an effort to reduce that dependency in recent years. While Congress can approve an unbalanced budget like the one being discussed that will add more than \$1.5 trillion to the national debt, states cannot afford that irresponsible luxury.

Virginia must pass a balanced biennium budget in 2018; the task will not be easy. A recent report by The Commonwealth Institute found that "Virginia's current revenue system isn't keeping up with changes and growth in the overall economy, and that's putting the



future prosperity of families and businesses at risk." (The Commonwealth Institute, "A Tax System for Yesterday: Slow Revenue Growth amid Economic Change, November 13, 2017).

The Institute found that "the way the current revenue system works was designed decades ago, with provisions that no longer work for today's economy..." For example, the shifts in consumer spending and growth in e-commerce nearly doubling in the last decade have contributed to a decline in state sales tax revenue relative to the total economy as internet sales mostly are not taxed. Likewise the shift of consumer spending from goods to services that are not taxed in Virginia added to the decline. There are

opportunities in the tax code to update its corporate tax system to reduce opportunities for tax avoidance, according to The Institute.

The usual method of balancing the budget by simply dividing revenue among programs will no longer work in Virginia as the pace of growth of needs has outstripped the growth in revenue. Some programs and services will once again be left under-funded. Shifting costs to local governments has been resorted to in recent years, but that is a well that has largely dried up.

Virginia is going to need to do a serious accounting of its unmet needs with the public and the legislature deciding what are we going to seriously fund and what needs will go unmet.

As the federal government plays with reforming the national tax structure, it is past time for Virginia to get serious about our own tax reform.

