

Reston CONNECTION

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Anna Miranda, 55, of Leesburg takes a picture of an outdoor Christmas light display Saturday on her smartphone as the snow falls in Reston Dec. 9. "It's gorgeous," she said.

Mallory to Deliver Keynote for King Celebration

Reston Community Center will welcome social justice advocate Tamika D. Mallory to deliver the keynote address at its 33rd Annual Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration on Monday, Jan. 15.

Mallory was the co-chair of the 2017 Women's March on Washington, which drew several hundred thousand participants to the District. Mallory worked closely with the Obama administration as an advocate for civil rights, women's rights, health care, eradicating gun violence and eliminating police misconduct.

Mallory's keynote address is at noon, followed by a community lunch at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Attendance at the community lunch and keynote address is limited to registered participants. Tickets are \$5 for Reston residents and employees, and \$10 for all others.

Reston Community Center Executive Director Leila Gordon says Reston's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration "brings together people of all ages and fosters discussion of what remains to be done locally and beyond. Reston was founded on principles of equality and respect, in step with those championed by Dr. King."

"It's clear that civil rights issues are more important than ever and that new perspectives and voices are contributing to the vitality of the movement," said Gordon. "Tamika Mallory is one of the young



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tamika D. Mallory

people who have stepped forward to advance the cause for universal social justice and equity passionately and effectively. We are excited to hear from her and encourage our community's young people to participate in the annual Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration."

Mallory's speech is part of a three-day schedule of events RCC and other community organizations have planned as part of the Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. Events include community service projects; the Reston Community Orchestra's 12th Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Voices of Inspiration; youth activities; and The Color Orange: A Hip-Hop Concert about Friendship and Multiculturalism.

For more information about all Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration events, visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mlk-celebration.shtml

The 33rd Annual Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration weekend is presented by Reston Community Center in cooperation with Martin Luther King Jr. Christian Church, the Office of Fairfax County Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, Reston Community Orchestra, Al Fatih Academy, Cornerstones, Reston Association, and Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services with the support of many other religious and civic organizations, business groups and schools.

Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner Appointed

Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) has announced the appointment of John Carter as the Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner, replacing Frank de la Fe.

Carter holds a Master of Planning degree from the University of Virginia; a Master of Architecture in Urban Design from Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Architecture with Distinction from Arizona State University.

Carter has more than 35 years of experience as a planner, ur-

ban designer and architect. He is a former Chief of Community-Based Planning in Montgomery County, and was responsible for overseeing the master plan and the development review processes for the largest geographic areas in Montgomery County. He has received numerous honors and awards over his career.

Carter has lived in the Hunter Mill District for more than 44 years and has extensive community involvement.

FAITH NOTES

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

Washington Plaza Baptist Church will hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church needs knitters the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Prayer Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other

knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. Email shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

Nondenominational Christian businessmen meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and noon Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. during the summer. Nursery and childcare are provided starting at 8 a.m. until the

SEE FAITH NOTES, PAGE 4

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Federal Tax Reform, Bad for Fairfax?

Supervisors split on effects of eliminating state and local tax deductions.

BY KEN MOORE

Most often, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appears unified. But last week, discussion about the pending tax reform measure in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives sparked discord.

"My primary concern on the federal package is that we are emphasizing on page one opposition to federal tax reform and that is a position that I simply do not agree with," said Braddock Supervisor John Cook.

The board adopted its updated and revised strategies and principles for the 115th Congress on Tuesday, Dec. 5, despite objections voiced by Cook and Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity, the two Republicans on the 10-person board.

"The concept of reducing tax rates and eliminating deductions is one needed for the national economy and I am disappointed that despite my requests and Supervisor Herrity's requests, the board is only looking at one side of the tax reform issue and that is the elimination of deductions, and not looking at the other side which is the economic growth potential that come with the other aspects of it," Cook said.

MAJOR TAX REFORM packages have passed both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and a reconciled bill is expected to affect almost every aspect of the economy. The measures differ, but both increase the standard deduction and eliminate or cap many itemized deductions, including the deduction for state and local taxes and the deduction for mortgage interest payments.

In Virginia, 1.5 million households claim \$16.5 billion in state and local tax deductions, according to U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). Connolly said in a release that 280,000 households claim this deduction in Fairfax County, for an average deduction of \$16,535.

"As a matter of fact, that [federal tax] bill was structured in a way, in my opinion, to explicitly discriminate against more urban localities across the country which do have higher assessed values," said Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay, "and in a lot of cases higher tax rates because they believe morally that we must provide certain services for our population."

Page 1 of the Board of Supervisors Strategies and Principles for the 115th Congress expresses concern about changes in tax policy:

"Because revenue options for localities in Virginia are extremely limited, the County

"I'm failing to understand anyone who believes this tax bill was built and predicated on helping low income people."

— Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay



"We are emphasizing on page one opposition to federal tax reform and that is a position that I simply do not agree with."

— Braddock Supervisor John Cook

"Across the nation, local governments are going to suffer as a result of this tax package."

— Dranesville Supervisor John Foust



opposes actions that impact County revenue sources or programs, including eliminating or capping federal deductibility for state and local taxes, which are used to fund education, public safety, transportation, infrastructure and human services (current law allows taxpayers to deduct state and local taxes paid from their federally taxable income, preventing double taxation and allowing state and local governments to maintain authority over the tax structures supporting those services).

JOHN FOUST, Dranesville District supervisor, found Cook's opinion hard to take.

"I just have to say, I just cannot accept that the tax package that is before the federal government is anything but destructive to local government which is where things are actually getting done these days," Foust said.

"To support elimination of the real estate tax deduction as a member of a Board of Supervisors, the local government, to me is just unbelievable," he said. "We absolutely are going to suffer, not just our local government, but, across the nation, local governments are going to suffer as a result of this tax package. We have to do everything we can to stop this."

Herrity countered, "You can't talk about that piece of it while ignoring the fact you're doubling the standard deduction and the value that brings especially to our low income residents."

"I'm failing to understand anyone who believes this tax bill was built and predicated on helping low income people," said McKay, chair of the Board's legislative committee. "I'm surprised I'm hearing it here today."

"Over 60 percent of our budget is built on revenue from real estate. To mess with or tinker with our largest source of revenue in any way that can have an effect on what people can sell their property for, what people can afford to buy and what their

bottom line is and how that bottom line affects the county's revenue — to ignore that would be absurd," McKay said. "It absolutely will have an effect and local governments across the country see that."

"I was going to be silent, but I think it is hard to do so," said Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District supervisor. "The tax package really sounds like something that is going to be very destructive in the long term."

"Essentially this is taxing taxes, taxing tax revenues and doubling taxation," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Cook did not budge.

"I have to disagree vehemently with the statement that the tax bill takes away from our local tax revenue. It's absolutely false. It's absolutely false," said Cook.

Read Strategies and Principles for the 115th Congress here: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/legislation/2018/adopted-federal-legislative-strategy-and-principles.pdf

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM WITH A SIDE OF OPTIMISM?

During the same board meeting on Dec. 5, supervisors formally adopted the 2018 Legislative Program for the General Assembly, with a note of optimism based on changes in the makeup of the House of Delegates because of last month's elections.

Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District supervisor, said: "With recent elections we have the opportunity to change some of the dynamics, and some of the focus, and some of the results that we get from Richmond. That's essential for this county, essential for the wellbeing of residents here and I would say particularly for schools."

Jeff McKay, chair of the board's legislative committee and Lee District supervisor reiterated the importance of schools as the county's top priority, citing particular concerns about state failure to provide any funds for teacher raises in FY17, and very

limited funds in FY18.

"Our [state legislative] program features state support for education as its top priority, and urges the state to fully meet its responsibility to adequately fund K-12," said McKay.

Virginia ranks 11th nationwide in per capita personal income, but 48th in state and local revenue as a percentage of personal income. Virginia ranks 38th nationwide in state per pupil funding. State K-12 spending per FCPS pupil was \$3,267 in FY 2016, while Fairfax County provided \$10,526.

TRANSPORTATION IS another priority.

"In this year's program, we've also elevated our WMATA position into its own priority statement which encourages the General Assembly to support dedicated funding and governance reforms for Washington Metrorail."

The region will have to work together to address Metro's critical funding needs, McKay said.

On other transportation issues, McKay emphasized the importance of transportation funding that is fair to Northern Virginia.

The Human Services Issues paper, which accompanies the legislative program, includes three priorities, according to McKay. "The first is increased state resources for the Children's Services Act. The second relates to increasing waiver rates and slots for those with developmental disabilities. And the third is state support for diversion services for nonviolent offenders experiencing mental health crises; this is in line with the county's diversion first initiative."

Herrity, Springfield District supervisor, was the lone vote against the legislative program this year. The program was adopted, including the Human Services issue paper, on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Read the legislative priorities here: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/legislation/2018/adopted-2018-legislative-program.pdf

Read the human services issue paper here: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/legislation/2018/adopted-2018-human-services-issue-paper.pdf

NEW BRIDGE OVER THE POTOMAC?

The Legislative Program asserts the importance of addressing capacity and congestion crossing the Potomac River.

"The American Legion Bridge, one of the most heavily used in the region, is also the most congested. Since the largest number of vehicles traversing the American Legion Bridge travel between Fairfax and Montgomery Counties, the chokepoint created by this bridge requires long-term solutions. ... The volume of commuters demonstrate that another crossing is essential to mobility in the area. ... It is vital that the capacity needs across the Potomac River be addressed, including at the American Legion Bridge and Rosslyn Tunnel, to alleviate the existing congestion."



Young racers start the 17th annual Gingerbread Man Race in Reston Town Center Friday morning.



Young racers line up to start the 17th annual Gingerbread Man Race in Reston Town Center Friday morning, Nov. 24.

Gingerbread Man Race Fills the Reston Town Center

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Black Friday was for running, as runners from 6 to 14 years old and their families lined the street for the Gingerbread Man Mile. The 17th annual race was sponsored by Potomac River Running and curled around a few central blocks of Reston Town Center.

The first 500 people to register for the race received a free t-shirt and many families came with more than one child, family members, and even their pets. Benefits from the race went to a local children's charity and the winners took part in the Holiday Parade which followed the race.

"We came to kick off the holidays and for my boys to participate in their first one-miler here. It's a fun run that we do to prepare them for the 5K and it's a lot of fun after the holidays," said Heidi Ryan, of Ashburn, who works for Long and Foster.

Announcer Meredith Tighe provided commentary on the race, encouragement, and announced the start of different age groups for runners.

Mark Stewart was at the race with his daughter and was watching her age group warm up, led by a real live gingerbread man. "This is also my first time at this race, and a race is a nice thing to do after a big meal like Thanksgiving. What a way to cap off a wonderful day," he said.

Terri Marlin, from Arlington, who works with Potomac River Running was in charge of making sure that the race ran smoothly. "The Gingerbread race is a special community kid event to kick off the holiday season," said Marlin.

Members of the Robinson Secondary School track and field team came to the race to volunteer. Some of them were holding orange flags and others led warmups for the racers of different age groups before the start of each section.

"I like to give back to the community. Our coach



Scott Bohinc, of Bethesda and his wife Sherri, daughter Ava, 12, son Landon, 10, Braxton, 8, and daughter Bella, 6, participated in the Gingerbread Man Race in Reston Town Center Friday morning.

recommended all of us to volunteer so I thought why not," said Russian Williams, 16, a Burke resident and student at Robinson Secondary.

"I run the 55 meter, and in the spring the 100 and 200 meter. We're too old to run in this race," he said.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From left: Connie Hartke, Lynne Mulston and Sue Beffel.

Rescue Reston Expands Mission

Due to overwhelming requests that Rescue Reston received from citizens for advice and support, the Rescue Reston board of directors voted to extend its mission to include Reston's sister golf course, Hidden Creek, which has the identical land use designation as Reston National.

Hidden Creek Country Club is on the north side of Reston, located at 1711 Clubhouse Road. It offers tennis and social memberships in addition to golf. HCCC changed ownership in October. Wheelock Communities, a subsidiary of Wheelock Street Capital, LLC, is fairly open that they did not buy the property to keep it as an 18-hole golf course.

Rescue Reston's revised mission statement reads:

Rescue Reston works to defend Reston's recreational green space at the 159-acre North Course, Hidden Creek Country Club, and at the South Course, Reston National Golf Course, a 166-acre Certified Audubon

Cooperative Sanctuary Program Golf Course on the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

A North Course Committee has been formed. Lynne Mulston, an active golf member at HCCC, chairs the committee. Co-chair is Sue Beffel, who currently also serves as chair of the Reston Association Environmental Advisory committee. Anyone wishing to assist with projects as they arise should contact the North Course Committee at northcourse@rescuereston.org.

To assist the community in learning more about these new developments, Reston Impact host and producer John Lovaas invited Rescue Reston's president, Connie Hartke and the North Course Committee team of Lynne Mulston and Sue Beffel to join him in a discussion of the issues to be aware of regarding this latest development. It can be viewed anytime at youtu.be/8F9C4BzDouM.

More information at www.rescuereston.org.



John Lovaas hosting Rescue Reston's Connie Hartke, Lynne Mulston and Sue Beffel on RCTV28's Reston Impact show on Dec. 1, 2017.

FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 2

end of the service. Call 703-437-5500 or visit www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7:30-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to prac-

tice meditation. \$12 or \$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. Call 202-986-2257 or visit www.meditation-dc.org.

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



New Nando's in Reston Raises Funds to Support Music Programs

On Saturday, Nov. 18, Nando's celebrated its grand opening by donating all their sales totalling \$12,711, minus alcohol and taxes, to the effort. Herndon High School will use the funds to send their marching band to represent the United States at the 75th Commemoration of D-Day in Normandy, France, in 2019. South Lakes High School will use the donations to send their marching band to Hawaii to perform at the 2017 Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade, which they went on and to meet other needs of the band program.



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Event Code: TR450664 (1445577)

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Ukulele Concerts

In the Reston Town Center, the Northern Virginia Ukulele Society will be holding Ukulele Concert at noon on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 11900 Market St., Reston. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.com for more.

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

ONGOING

Willy Wonka on Stage. Through Dec. 18, 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.

Gingerbread Village. Through Jan. 4, 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.

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.

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 FEB. 17

Artist Exhibit. Various times at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St. Featuring the work of Paulina Peavy, namesake of "Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina," the first exhibition to bring together a selection of Peavy's works across disciplines including works on paper, paintings, films, texts, and numerous mixed media masks. Visit www.restonarts.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

Herndon Holiday Shoppe. 10 a.m.

at Herndon Elementary School, 630 Dranesville Road. Shop for gifts or volunteer to work for volunteer hours. Call 703-326-3100.

Sunrise Valley Elementary School Chorus Concert. 6:30 p.m. at Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.com.

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.

College Funding Workshop. 7-9 p.m. at South Lakes High School, Lecture Hall, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Hosted by the College Funding Coach, learn strategies to qualify for financial aid, sources for scholarships, and strategies for maximizing your wealth and minimizing tax exposure. Free. Email slhssteam@gmail.com.

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.

Apostolic Faith Church Concert. 6:30 p.m. at Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.com.

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.

Grace Covenant Church Concert. 6:30 p.m. at Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Holiday Open House. 11 a.m. at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Join staff to celebrate the holiday season with light refreshment, music, and entertainment for all ages. Age 18-24 months with adult. Call 703-689-2700.

Tim McKee Concert. Noon at the Promenade, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music by Tenor Tim McKee. Call 703-476-4500 or visit



Ice Skating

The ice rink at the Reston Town Center is open for the season. Call 703-709-6300 or visit www.restontowncenter.com.

restoncommunitycenter.com.
The Reston Chorale Concert. 1 p.m. at the Promenade, 11900 Market St., Reston. 45-minute performances presented by Reston Community Center. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.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. 17

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.

Ukulele Concert. noon at the Promenade, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music by the Northern Virginia Ukulele Society. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.com.

Catchin' Toads Concert. 2-3 p.m. at the Promenade, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music by Catchin' Toads. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 21

Puppet Snow Show. 10 and 11:30 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park's



Concert

Catchin' Toads will be in concert with Tim McKee on Saturday, Dec. 23 at noon at the Promenade, 11900 Market St., Reston. 45-minute performances presented by Reston Community Center. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.com for more.

Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Puppet master Bob Brown brings this special holiday puppet show to the park. \$5. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/DEC. 23

Catchin' Toads and Tim McKee in Concert. noon at the Promenade, 11900 Market St., Reston. 45-minute performances presented by Reston Community Center. Visit restoncommunitycenter.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. 31

New Year's Eve Golf Tournament. 10 a.m. at Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave. Annual four-person scramble. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, range balls and prizes. Call 703-471-5769 visit www.herdongolf.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 1

New Year's Day 5K. 10 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. music, food, awards, and fun celebration following the race.

Presented by Potomac River Running. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

DEADLINE JAN. 5, 2018

2018 Fine Art Photography Competition. Fine Art Photography of any subject is welcome; there is no required theme for entries. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

THROUGH JAN. 8

Art Exhibit. Various hours 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.

MONDAY/JAN. 15

Social Justice Advocate Speech. noon at at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Tamika D. Mallory keynote address is at noon, followed by a community lunch. \$5 for Reston residents and employees, and \$10 for all others. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Creating a Free-Flowing Kitchen

Remodel yields brighter space.

When Alexis and Jason Sabloff decided it was time to remodel their kitchen, the Herndon homeowners set out with a goal of creating a modern space, improving the lighting and replacing appliances.

They enlisted the help of Winn Design + Build. The team, which consisted of owner Michael Winn, architect Amy Finch, designer Jennifer Hall and carpenter Diego Cabrera, was tasked with creating a free-flowing and aesthetically appealing space without changing the existing footprint.

The 302-square-foot kitchen was long, narrow, dark and accessorized with “too-tall soffits,” a funky green tiled floor and insufficient lighting,” said Hall.

The family wanted to redesign the space so that it flowed seamlessly into the family room to allow for easy entertaining. Hall says that the homeowners also wanted to relocate the existing pantry, create a mudroom and generally improve the circulation, utility and aesthetics of the kitchen and surrounding areas.

The design team removed the soffits and replaced



PHOTO BY STACY ZARN GOLDBERG

Black granite countertops and white cabinetry help modernize this Herndon kitchen by Winn Design + Build.

dark wood cabinets with Hanover door style cabinetry in Glacier White to create a light and airy feel. The Winn team replaced the green tile with a hardwood that matches the flooring in the rest of the home. They also rearranged the appliances and breakfast table to make the kitchen appear more spacious.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

A Kitchen for the Ages

When empty nesters Mike Rogan and Sue Shaffer decided to move out of the Arlington home where they had lived for 27 years, they embarked on a two-year search for a new abode. They were looking for a home where they could age in place and have space for live-in caretakers if needed.

They settled on a McLean home and hired Rill Architects to redesign it, creating an open floor plan that allowed for entertaining. The design team created a space that connects the kitchen to the family room, dining room, rear patio and garage.

The Rogans wanted the kitchen to have an island, multiple workstations, clean lines with Victorian detailing and enough space for multiple cooks.

The design team incorporated the Rogan's love of casual and modern. “The painted wood ceiling and traditional casing with an arched pass-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. WILKINSON

This McLean kitchen by Rill Architects includes maplewood, furniture-style cabinets with brushed nickel hardware, classic millwork and granite countertops.

through play off the more contemporary cabinets and glass tile backsplash, creating both a sleek and casual inviting space for family gathering and team cooking,” said Jim Rill.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Black Friday 2016 is bright at night in Reston's Wyndham Hills neighborhood — just a stone's throw away from Leesburg Pike and Reston Parkway — where visitors far and near have witnessed a spectacular annual holiday light display for 18 years.



It's a bright idea for motorists with Christmas trees tied onto the roofs of their vehicles to stop for a little holiday decorating inspiration from a huge light display at a house just a stone's throw away from Leesburg Pike and Reston Parkway. A pedestrian walking through the Wyndham Hills neighborhood in Reston calls it "a Christmas paradise."

Black Friday is Bright at Night in Reston

Bedazzling holiday lights raise hope and money for children with cancer.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

For almost two decades, a brilliant house in Reston, just a stone's throw away from Virginia State Route 7, has delighted visitors at night between Thanksgiving and Epiphany.

The trees surrounding its quiet neighborhood tucked in the southeast corner of Leesburg Pike and Reston Parkway cannot contain the holiday glow emanating from the dark woods.

Each year, this enchanting scene is so beguiling to some Black Friday shoppers and other motorists headed toward the Reston Town Center they take a second glance, continue driving down the road then make a U-Turn at Bright Pond Lane.

These curiosity seekers venture more than a quarter mile out of their way to see what has drawn them back to Wyndham Hills.

They are not disappointed.

ONLOOKERS ARE REWARDED with the sweet sight of 250,000 white twinkling lights that serve as eye candy filling passersby with holiday cheer.

This larger-than-life season's greeting brings joy ... to the world and children of all ages. Three visitors from Mexico were impressed by the wonderful show of lights Cyber Monday evening, when they were driven by Ashburn resident, Teresa Lopez, 52, to the corner of Stones Throw and Fieldview drives.

"I have to show them the dreamhouse," Lopez exclaims. When her grown children were much younger, she brought them here annually for at least a decade to see this rare holiday gem sparkle in Northern Vir-



Santa Claus rests in a chair while his elves decorate the Christmas tree in the foyer at 11303 Stones Throw Drive in Reston, where homeowner J.J. Coury uses his outdoor light display to raise funds for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

ginia. "They love to come every year," she says.

"It's better than Disney," admits Jessica Candia, 38, of Mexico City.

Another lady — Kelly Patino, 21, of Sterling — made the same observation last year on Black Friday. She said Nov. 25, 2016 the Christmas House in Reston was a high-caliber display like Disney World of Orlando,

Fla. Her beau, Emmanuel Jiménez, 26, also was in awe as if the scene came out of a movie.

"I have never seen anything like this before," Jiménez declared. His dad snapped pictures and said "I can look at this for hours."

"It's beautiful," Monica Morales, 62, of Mexico City said Nov. 27. The description



Two life-sized statues stand sentry Nov. 27 at the entrance to the dining room of the Coury family home in Reston. These nutcrackers not only are guardians of the wine credenza but protect an intricate, hand-carved crèche made from a single block of wood homeowner J.J. Coury says he purchased in Italy.

of her and Candia's fellow traveler needs no translation:

"Fabuloso," chimes 6-year-old Diego.

"I've been doing this since I was 8 years old," says J.J. Coury, the original homeowner of 11303 Stones Throw Drive in Reston. As the oldest son, he watched his

SEE CHRISTMAS HOUSE. PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Maria Chavez, 29, of Arlington and Erin McGrath, 23, of Fairfax are enchanted Saturday by a brilliant Christmas light display as snow falls Dec. 9 in Reston at 11303 Stones Throw Drive.

Christmas House

FROM PAGE 8

mother raise 12 kids in Pittsburgh, Pa., and inherited her festive flair for decorating — especially during the holidays.

Coury moved to Virginia 40 years ago. Although it took a while, he found the right place in 1999 to launch his vision for a spectacular holiday light display that reflects his elegant style for Christmas décor.

“I knew it was special because I knew it was the Christmas House,” he said. A production this big requires a system for this 63-year-old man, who rallies his decorating team the first week of October, so they can turn on the light display the day after Thanksgiving. Removal and storage of ornaments takes half the time of setup.

“I have my little elves,” Coury admits. “Without them I cannot have Christmas.”

He claims he trained “the best workers on earth” and every year they perfect their scheme. Santa Claus and his sleigh are carried uphill by four prancing reindeer on one side of the front yard. “All is calm, all is bright” by the driveway at the colorful Nativity Scene — as if it was plucked from a popular Christmas carol like “Away in a Manger” or “Silent Night.”

Six years ago, Coury traded his time-consuming strings of miniature incandescent lamps for strands of light-emitting diode bulbs that are more user-friendly. The new white LED source was a game changer that allowed him to take his outdoor art “to a different level.”

It lowered his monthly electric bill, he said, from an extra \$1,200 a month to just \$300 above his normal energy usage.

THE COURY FAMILY Christmas House sheds light in the dark of night Black Friday through Epiphany — Jan. 6.

Not only was his home a canvas for the idea he pictured, it was a means to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Coury’s common ground with the charity: His family tree is rooted in Lebanon. Hospital founder, the late Danny Thomas — a beloved 20th century American comedian and television entertainer — was Lebanese. According to www.stjude.org, Thomas

believed prayer to the patron saint of hopeless causes was the key to his success. For this reason, the celebrity built a shrine in the form of a children’s hospital.

Coury’s middle name: Jude.

He says it’s an honor to use his Christmas House to lift spirits — and raise funds for the treatment, cure and prevention of childhood cancer and other catastrophic pediatric diseases. Since the hospital opened in 1962, patients and their medical research teams have increased the childhood cancer survival rate from 20 to 80 percent. It has treated children around the world free of charge.

A huge banner at the front of Coury’s corner lot encourages passersby to send the word “LIFE” in a text message to 50333 and donate \$10 directly to the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

However, this is the last year visitors far and near can see the bedazzling Christmas light display. Coury recently listed his corner-lot home for sale. His children, now grown, have moved away. Now empty nesters, he and his wife are downsizing.

He says his last year at the Coury Christmas House is an emotional time. Coury hopes the new homeowners will continue his beloved tradition of outdoor Christmas lights.

The good news is most of his holiday decorations are heirlooms for his daughter’s house. Coury says the torch is passed and the family legacy will carry on next year elsewhere in Northern Virginia.



From left: Monica Morales, Diego and Jessie Candia of Mexico, and Ashburn resident Teresa Lopez visit the local landmark they call the “dream house.”



Red’s Table is located at South Lakes Village Shopping Center,

Tasty Changes At Red’s Table

New chef digs into his creativity and comes up with new dishes that shine.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

One of Reston’s busier restaurants and with its lakeside vista, Red’s Table has welcomed a new executive chef, Kevin Ettenson, into its kitchen. Taking over for the founding chef, Adam Stein, Ettenson seems totally at ease in this kitchen and cooking for the restaurant’s food-savvy patrons.

A self-taught cook, Ettenson loved the kitchen and all its flavors when as a kid his dad and he loved creating dishes with the family cooking. “He would tear through the kitchen and pantry,” said Ettenson. Adding to his culinary experience, Ettenson grew up overseas in Japan and Australia so that he has become familiar with other flavors and seasonings.

When the family moved to D.C., Ettenson briefly attended college, but decided he preferred hands-on work, and that took him right into the kitchen after working as a server in Clyde’s of Reston and Coastal Flats. At the Mad Fox Brewing Company, Ettenson tended bar, until the chef decided to move him into the kitchen as a line cook.

That was a turning point, for he eventually became the junior sous chef there, then moved to a sous chef and then the executive sous chef at other local restaurants. After one more career jump forward, he was hired as the executive chef at Red’s Table.

While keeping a few very popular dishes — the goat cheese fritters, the smoky chicken wings, the crab cakes, and the fried chicken, for example —

Ettenson has dug into his creativity and come up with new dishes that absolutely shine. How about the honey-sweet and warm biscuits to start?

Ah, and the ahi tuna poke, a splendid appetizer of freshly sliced and raw tuna. Dressed in a mild soy and tamarind coating (and with a drizzle of some Peruvian aji verde, or green sauce), the delicate slices are topped with shredded apple and jicama slaw — a very refreshing kick-off to a Red’s Table meal. Most of the appetizers are linked to seafood, from clams and shrimp to mussels and oysters.

As for dinner entrées, the stunning choice is his creative sweet potato gnocchi topped with a tempting heap of shredded braised pork. The combination of sweetish gnocchi with the savory pork makes for a stunning main dish. Other choices include their classic beef burger, cioppino, a cut of beef, and a chilly weather must, the duck cassoulet, rather like a classy duck stew.

Sides are some of the typical ones, but a top choice is the fried Brussel sprouts tossed with crispy bacon. You can never go wrong with sprouts, perfect for breakfast, lunch and dinner. And for dessert, by long-time pastry chef Chris Works, scan the dessert menu, of course, but aim for his Nutella cheesecake, a profoundly rich and creamy slice of calorie heaven.

Check out the wine and cocktail lists — you will find plenty to keep you pleasantly serene. And, basically, just enjoy the visit and the food.

Red’s Table, South Lakes Village Shopping Center, 11150 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Open daily for lunch and dinner and weekend brunch. Call 571-375-7755 or visit redstableva.com.

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NEWS

Reston Hospital Center Receives Level II Trauma Designation

The designation provides the surrounding communities additional access to lifesaving trauma care.

HCA Virginia's Reston Hospital Center has achieved designation as a Level II Trauma Center by the Virginia Department of Health's State Health Commissioner.

Reston Hospital Center is the first Level II Trauma Center serving Northern Virginia to open in over a decade. In October 2016, the team received its provisional designation to serve in a Level II Trauma Center capacity providing trauma care to more than 1,200 patients needing higher levels of care.

Reston Hospital Center's Level II designation provides the surrounding communities of more than 3 million people additional access to lifesaving trauma care, allowing emergency responders a new location to transfer patients to for immediate trauma care within the critical "golden hour" during which treatment is most effective.

"This designation is a direct result of our team's focus on enhancing the level of care that we are able to provide to our community. Every resident in Northern Virginia needs and deserves local access to quality trauma care, particularly when minutes may make the difference between life and death," said Dr. Ranjit Pullarkat, Medical Director of Reston Hospital Center's Trauma Services. "Expanding our services into a trauma program enables us to deliver a higher level of care to injured patients, close to their homes and families."

ACCORDING TO MINDY CARTER, director of Trauma Services, as a Level II Trauma Center, the facility is able to initiate definitive trauma care for all patients by providing 24/7 on-site trauma surgeons.

"It's exciting to be part of such a dedicated team of people who are ready to provide a higher level of care for the injured person and their family," said Carter. "As our communities grow, and in uncertain times of potential tragedy, it is vital that more hospitals are prepared for both individual and large-scale disasters."

In addition to having trauma surgeons on-site, around the clock, trauma experts specializing in orthopedics, neurosurgery, anesthesiology, plastic and

facial trauma, thoracic, gynecological/obstetrical, cardiac, and other surgical specialties are on call and immediately available 24/7.

"Trauma designation is a natural progression for Reston Hospital Center. As a tertiary provider in the region, we're able to leverage the expertise of our ORs, ICUs, ED, and surgeons to care for the acutely injured trauma patient during that critical care window," said John Deardorff, president and CEO of Reston Hospital Center.

"With the rapid growth in Northern Virginia, it's our job to ensure that Reston can provide the higher levels of necessary care in a more accessible manner for our EMS partners and our patients," he continued. "Every minute counts, and our ability to provide this level of care – without transfer and close to home – would not be possible without the partnership between our skilled medical staff and hospital employees."

Dr. Ranjit Pullarkat, medical director of trauma services; Dr. Jae Lim, trauma lead for neurosurgery; and Dr. Robert Beer, trauma lead for orthopedics; oversee a comprehensive surgical trauma team in the following specialties: trauma surgery; vascular surgery; thoracic surgery; neurological surgery; orthopedic surgery; hand surgery; plastic surgery; maxillofacial surgery; ear, nose and throat surgery; oral surgery; ophthalmic surgery; gynecological surgery/obstetrical surgery, and urological surgery.

ONE OF ONLY 19 trauma centers in the state, Reston Hospital Center plays a critical role in emergency care in Northern Virginia. Reston Hospital Center also has advanced primary stroke and chest pain accreditations and is recognized as a top performer in heart attack, heart failure, and surgical care. Offering both adult and pediatric emergency services, staffed 24/7 by pediatric-trained emergency nurses and physician specialists, Reston Hospital Center is prepared to serve as an access point for immediate care with timely and improved access to life-saving measures for patients in need of trauma care.

For more information visit RestonHospital.com/Trauma.

South Lakes Swimmers Split Win with Langley

South Lakes High School's Varsity Swim and Dive teams came out strong in their opening meet, qualifying a relay and several individuals for the regional and state meets as they faced Langley High School on Friday, Dec. 1, at the Herndon Community Center. The girls team won with 161 points over Langley's 151. The South Lakes boys lost with 134 points to Langley's 181.

For the girls, the 200-yard medley relay team of Anna Redican, Emily Fritz, Claudia Reverte, and Sophia Landeryou qualified for regionals with a time of 1:53.29. Redican also qualified with individual times in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke. Landeryou qualified in the 100-yard freestyle. For the boys, Ben Barbee made a regionals cut in the 500-yard freestyle, and Jack Edgemond qualified for the state meet in both the 200-yard

individual medley and the 500-yard freestyle.

Other highlights included:

❖ A sweep of the 50-yard freestyle for Landeryou (first), Katie Nguyen (second) and Megan Slater (third).

❖ A sweep of girls diving for Devon Alessandrino (first), Aggie Alessandrino (second), and SJ Brown (third).

❖ A one-two finish for Edgemond (first) and Barbee (second) in the 500-yard freestyle.

❖ A first place finish for the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Edgemond, Matthew Fritz, Matthew Beach, and Hunter Ellis

❖ A first place finish for Emily Fritz in the 100-yard breaststroke.

❖ A first place finish for Solomon Blackmon in the 50-yard freestyle.

BULLETIN

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR WINTER HOLIDAYS

Free Sober Rides. The annual Holiday SoberRider program will operate 8 p.m.-4 a.m. each night from Friday, Dec. 15, 2017-Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's weekly Holiday SoberRide promo codes will be posted at 2:00 pm on Dec. 15, Dec. 23 and Dec. 31 on www.SoberRide.com.

ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER

White House Ornaments Sale. Through Dec. 15, 2017 White House Ornaments available for purchase from Assistance League of Northern Virginia for \$22 per ornament. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit's children's programs. Local delivery can be arranged. Visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org 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 serve on the Reston P&Z Committee, find the application at rpz.myreston.org and return it with your resume, as per the instructions on the application.

TUESDAY/DEC. 19

Land Use Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The Hunter Mill District Land Use Committee meets. Agenda items include Virginia Electric and Power Company. The Land Use Committee will NOT meet in November. Contact Goldie Harrison at 703-478-0283.

TUESDAY/DEC. 26

Inova Blood Drive, noon-7 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston, beside the Pavilion. Schedule appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood.

ONGOING

Herndon High School Library needs volunteers. Training available to help with re-shelving books, pulling books for teacher use, helping to check passes, or other special projects. To learn more, email hhs_library@fcps.edu.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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 in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com to RSVP.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

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As Good As It Gets



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Five weeks of blissful ignorance. (Speak for yourself. I am.) No 24-hour urine collection. No pre-chemotherapy lab work. No chemotherapy infusion. No CT scan. No follow-up appointment with my oncologist – or any other doctor for that matter. No brain MRI. No fasting. No emailing. No prescription-drug refilling. No vitals. No weight check. No taste/eating side effects. No anything. Other than pretending and presuming that all is not wrong in my “whirled” (my underlying diagnosis), life is for the living, and I’m living proof, random though it may be, that an incredibly grim/surreal prognosis: “13 months to two years,” was not all it was cracked up to be.

Forgive me if I unleash my pent-up inner demons. As a cancer patient, there’s just so much to worry about; daily, weekly, monthly and always, that when you get a break/brake in the action, it becomes a moment in time to celebrate and cherish.

Good things may come in small packages, but great things come in five-week intervals. And though the minor deficits I have as a result of nearly nine years of chemotherapy have not dissipated; in the scheme of things, in the midst of two-fortnights-and-a-half of “uncumbrances,” to quote my late father, I am “untethered,” to once again quote my father. This time however, quoting the late, great Sid Caesar for a skit he performed (involving “an elephant,” my father always said) on “The Show of Shows” back in the early 50s.

And so for the next month and change, I am almost normal (or a reasonable facsimile thereof); other than following my daily anti-cancer, non-Western routine which I have long ago assimilated into my dos and don’ts, that is. A routine which, though it can always be enhanced, is a direct result of the advice I’ve received from my certified Holistic Health Coach. And despite the fact that I may not exactly be on the straight and narrow – more like the squiggly and wiggly, I certainly am not on the path I was when my cancer cells activated after I slid into my first PET scan back in early February 2009, and “lit it up like a Christmas tree,” according to my thoracic surgeon. An indication/confirmation which led to a surgical biopsy a week or so later which then led to the last nine years of my life.

Still, it’s been a life worth living and one for which I have few regrets. I have lived so far beyond my original prognosis, it’s not even funny; it’s ridiculous. Sure, I’m doing more of the right things than I ever did, but hardly am I the poster boy for “see what happens when you” If I’m the poster boy for anything, it’s more likely “how to maintain and even increase your weight while being treated for stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer.”

Not that I won’t savor the moments ahead, but I am mindful, which led to the substance of this column, of what happens after this semi-party is over: Jan. 2, 2018 – 24-hour urine collection; Jan. 3, 2018 – pre-chemotherapy lab work; Jan. 5, 2018 – chemotherapy infusion; Jan. 17, 2018 – CT scan; and finally, Jan. 26. 2018 – follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results of my scan, and then maybe another emotional honeymoon or, God forbid, a nightmare that diagnosis to date has rarely raised its ugly head.

That possibility roams my head, constantly; compartmentalized – yes; “in the vault” – yes, but unfortunately, “the cancer,” (as “Forrest, Forrest Gump” said) still in my body and, medically speaking, not yet something one can flush out with treatment. But there’s always hope.

In the past few years, the FDA has approved half-a-dozen new lung cancer drugs, more than during the preceding decade. I don’t think medical professionals would say they have lung cancer on the run; they might say however, they have it on the trot. Which is good for me because I can’t run, but I can trot.

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

OPINION

Save Healthcare for Children Right Now

If U.S. Senate fails to act soon, 69,000 children and pregnant women in Virginia, more than 8 million nationally, will lose health coverage.

The Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, provides health coverage to low-income, children with family incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level in Virginia, up to \$49,200 for a family of four. In Virginia, coverage under CHIP is called Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) and covers more than 69,000 children and pregnant women. More than 8.4 million children are covered nationally under CHIP.

Ironically, families with children covered under FAMIS (note that the S stands for "security") will receive letters this week letting them know that their medical insurance security ends in January unless the U.S. Senate acts to reauthorize (fund) CHIP by the end of the year. The House of Representatives passed a bill to reauthorize CHIP in November, funding it mostly through cuts to programs in the Affordable Care Act.

The letter to Virginia FAMIS participants reads:

"We are sending you this letter because these people in your family are enrolled in FAMIS or FAMIS MOMS:

"FAMIS and FAMIS MOMS are paid for by state and federal funds through the Children's Health Insurance Program known as CHIP. For

20 years CHIP has had the strong support of Congress and has been renewed many times. We are hopeful that Congress will once again provide the funding to continue this program. However, because Congress has not acted yet, we need to let you know that there is a chance the FAMIS programs may have to shut down.

"If Congress does not act soon, the FAMIS programs will end on Jan. 31, 2018."

Having tens of thousands of uninsured children is bad health policy for every Virginian. It's better for all children in school to have all children be able to access health care, both preventative care and care when they are sick.

According to a recent publication in the New England Journal of Medicine:

"The body of evidence summarized here indicates that coverage expansions significantly increase patients' access to care and use of preventive care, primary care, chronic illness treatment, medications, and surgery. These increases appear to produce significant, multifaceted, and nuanced benefits to health.

"Some benefits may manifest in earlier detection of disease, some in better medication adherence and management of chronic conditions, and some in the psychological well-being born of knowing one can afford care when one gets sick. ... Some of these changes will ultimately help tens of thousands of people live longer lives.

"Conversely, the data suggest that policies reducing coverage will produce significant harms to health, particularly among people with lower incomes and chronic conditions."

Also, having health coverage leads to greater financial security, and that helps the economy. "There is abundant evidence that having health insurance improves financial security," according to the same study.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine have repeatedly called for a vote to reauthorize CHIP.

Yesterday, they said, "Today is a scary day for a lot of families in Virginia, and it was completely preventable. We asked Senator McConnell multiple times to help us support the 66,000 children and 1,100 pregnant women in Virginia who receive their health care through the CHIP program, but Republican leadership still hasn't brought it forward for a vote. There is a bipartisan bill on the table, and it's critical that we pass it before Congress leaves for the holidays so we can give some peace of mind to Virginia parents who are worried about whether their children will have health insurance in the new year."

We wish everyone peace of mind in the New Year.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER

Questions to Ask on Gun Violence

To the Editor:

I read your article on Protesting Gun Violence (Connection, November 29-December 5, 2017) and came away confused by the protesters' message. Wouldn't it be more appropriate to hold the protests in urban centers since the vast majority of gun violence occurs there? How will protesting at the NRA stop gun violence, particularly the majority of gun violence that occurs with illegal firearms in cities? And do the protesters know that gun violence is at historic lows?

It sounds like their real issue is with the NRA and by extension their members, and not gun violence. The reporter should have asked the protesters some of the above basic questions to better flush out the issues for readers. The article would then have read less like sponsored content and more like a substantive news article.

Jeff Norris
Vienna

Women Honored

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

Earlier this week there was a groundbreaking ceremony on the grounds of the State Capitol in Richmond for a memorial "recognizing the contributions of women across four centuries."

The first phase of the monument named "Voices from the Garden" will be an oval-shaped plaza that will contain 12 bronze statues depicting significant women in Virginia's history. A glass Wall of Honor containing the names of several hundred additional women of note will surround the plaza.

Supporters of the new monument claim it to be "the first of its kind on the grounds of a state capitol." Certainly it is a step forward in recognizing the important place of women after English colonization and the transport of the first English women to the colony in 1619.

The grounds of the Capitol have been dominated by white men since Richmond became the capital of the Commonwealth in 1780. From the grand equestrian statue

of George Washington that dominates the grounds to a lonely statue of senator and former governor Harry F. Byrd, only the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial opened in 2008 offers evidence of others than white men who contributed to Virginia's history. The addition of the women's memorial at a critically important time will help to fill in the blanks of history as will the Virginia Indian Tribute Memorial that is currently under construction.

COMMENTARY

Recognizing the historic contributions of women has become even more important at a time when the daily news brings information on the number of women having been sexually harassed by well-known political and entertainment figures. While those disclosures have brought attention to the situation, there needs to be recognition that we are only seeing the tip of a very great problem.

Many women who are afraid, feel shame or powerlessness, or whose perpetrator is a relative, co-worker, or community member but who is not famous have had to suffer in silence. Now that the lid

is sufficiently off, the issue will not be able to be swept away or ignored. The path forward is not entirely clear, but giving women the respect they have earned whether in history or as head of a family is an important step.

A memorial on capitol grounds of a state that did not ratify until 1952 the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote in 1920 is an important step as well.

The greatest tribute to women in Virginia may have come with the outcome of the recent Virginia election. Pending final vote certification there will be 38 women in the Virginia General Assembly — 27 percent versus the earlier 19 percent. The Democratic caucus in the House of Delegates will be nearly half women as it should be.

Supporting these women candidates were thousands of women working to make a difference in numbers never before realized. Seeing these winning women candidates are thousands of young women who just witnessed a door opening for them. It is likely to be that Virginia will finally ratify the Equal Rights Amendment as I have supported my entire career.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Fallon Forbush
Reporter
fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Contributing Writer
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Reporter
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Editorial Assistant
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

