

Enjoy Our Reston Community Center

BY JOHN LOVAAS
 CIVIC LEADER AND RESTON
 IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



Two weeks ago, this column expressed concern that if we in Reston do not take seriously the preparation of our new Master Plan, we run the risk of becoming the “congested nightmare” that Tysons Corner is today or the even worse nightmare that is coming. Fairfax County plans to triple the density of Tysons to transform it into a lovely “pedestrian-friendly community.” Yet, they cannot assure that “150 or so” private landowners would actually follow an ideal plan to make that happen even if the county had one. But, the current chairman of the Board of Supervisors says it won’t happen overnight, so not to worry: “This transformation will happen over 30, 40, 50 years.” [Time Magazine-June 23]

I think I’ll take my chances and stay here in Reston. One good reason to do so is the enjoyment and personal enrichment available at

the Reston Community Center. Fran and I have long been regulars at RCC’s terrific theater productions. Just a few weeks ago, we were treated to a two-night special, the incomparable Mandy Patinkin one night and his talented wife Kathryn Grody the other. Our daughter Jenni had wonderful experience in RCC’s Young Actors Theatre summer camps while growing up here. But, only recently did we begin to take advantage of some of the quality classes at the Community Center. Fran just completed her second painting (watercolors) class at the Center and is making great progress which she attributes to a terrific teacher. Don’t tell her, but I think she may also have a bit of natural talent. She is not only getting quality instruction, but paid only \$20 for the last course, a seniors program of seven sessions. Non-residents pay twice that.

Meanwhile, I’m taking my second Memoir Writing course. I, too, am most impressed with my instructor. When I began the first course, it was sort of a lark. I’ve had this vague notion that there may be a book lurking somewhere inside, but I doubted I had the self-discipline to actually do it and certainly had no thought of writing a memoir. Now I’m certain that I can write at least a memoir. I have been inspired to get in gear and do some actual writing. For the two courses of 10 sessions each, I’ve paid a total of \$70 (\$140 for a non-resident). I’m convinced that these courses — and scores more for all ages in the RCC Program Guide — are incredible bargains both financially and psychologically.

If you and your family haven’t made use of the Center’s facilities at Lake Anne and Hunters Woods, you are really missing something. The summer is a great time to try out the fabulous indoor pool, the woodworking and pottery shops, the cornucopia of fun and fulfilling courses, travel, and five-star performances at the Center Stage. You, in fact, are shareholders in RCC. Come and enjoy it.

