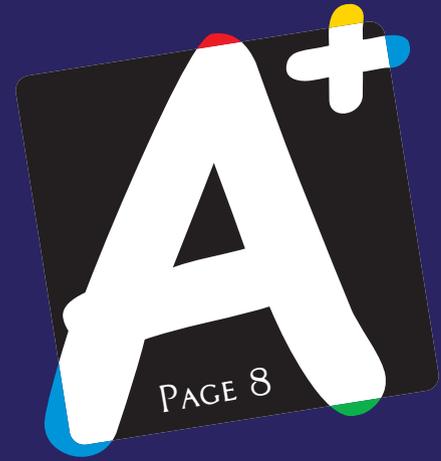


# Burke CONNECTION

Virginia gubernatorial candidates, Republican Ed Gillespie and Democrat Ralph Northam, debate Tuesday evening, Sept. 19, at the Capital One headquarters in McLean. Their final debate before the Nov. 7 election will be hosted by the University of Virginia-Wise.



# Rorschach Politics

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A Tale of Two Immigrants

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200 Take Part in Volksmarch in Burke

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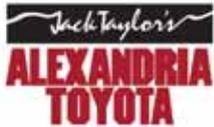
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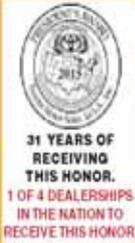
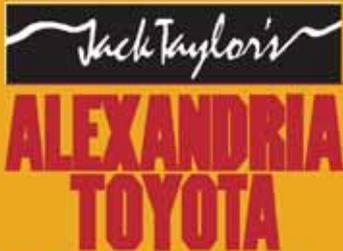
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Republican Ed Gillespie speaks at Tuesday's debate.



Democrat Ralph Northam (right) speaks at Tuesday's debate.

## Rorschach Politics

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

The campaign for governor is a bit like a Rorschach test as the candidates close in on the final stretch toward Election Day. Democrat Ralph Northam and Republican Ed Gillespie are presenting a series of inkblots to voters about everything from the health of the economy to the value of Confederate statues.

How voters feel about President Donald Trump and the Affordable Care Act may end up playing more of a role deciding the fate of the election than all the carefully crafted policy proposals and press releases.

"The critiques that one is leveling at the other that aren't policy oriented are designed to undermine the opponent's base but also energize their own base," said Quentin Kidd, professor at Christopher Newport University. "But while they do have to play politics and critique each other, they've got to talk about policy, and they've got to talk about the things they would do to solve problems and make life better for Virginians."

Polls show Northam holding a steady but slight lead since March, the last time Gillespie was leading in a statewide poll of voters. One of the most recent polls was conducted by the University of Mary Washington earlier this month, which shows Northam edging out a 5 percent win over his rival — a lead that's so slight it was within the margin of error. Polls have Northam crushing Gillespie in vote-rich Northern Virginia. But they also show Gillespie leading among independent voters and holding strong in conservative parts of the state.

"You see a lot of undecided voters, which means both campaigns have a lot of work to do between now and November," said Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington. "When you



PHOTO COURTESY: WASHINGTON POST

At the end of Tuesday's debate Gillespie and Northam share a handshake. The debate was notable for its civility on all sides.

take out the portions of the electorate who will reflexively vote for a Democrat or a Republican, you are left with people who are going to be motivated by community-level issues."

**THE DEBATE**, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and moderated by Chuck Todd of NBC's "Meet the Press," was held at Capital One headquarters in McLean on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Panelists included Julie Carey, NBC4; Aaron Gilchrist, NBC4; and Mark J. Rozell, George Mason University. The debate was notable for its civility on all sides.

Gillespie rattled off a series of data points about sluggish job growth and stories of people leaving Virginia to move to other states. His solution to the perceived weakness is a 10 percent reduction in the indi-

Candidates for governor present inkblots on issues from health of the economy to the value of Confederate statues.

vidual income tax rate, a proposal that would cost more than \$1 billion over the next five years.

"We have tended to put a lot of focus on what I call whale hunting — trying to get a Fortune 100 company to move lock stock and barrel into Virginia," said Gillespie after the debate. "And I'm all for it. We need to make a run at Amazon, and we're going to. But that can't be the singular focus of our economic development agenda and vision."

Northam criticized Gillespie's plan as a tax cut for the wealthy, a proposal that would blow a billion-dollar size hole in the budget and crowd out spending for roads and schools. Instead, he said he would like to continue on the path of current Gov. Terry McAuliffe's "New Virginia Economy," emphasizing lowering the unemployment rate

and a series of corporations that have moved their headquarters to the commonwealth. During one point in the debate, Northam turned to Gillespie and said all his trash-talking about the Virginia economy could prevent Amazon from setting up shop in Virginia.

"Right now, Ed, we are having negotiations with Amazon — 50,000 jobs," Northam said to Gillespie. "Amazon doesn't want to hear from people like you, especially if you want to be the next governor, that we are doing poorly in Virginia."

**CONFEDERATE STATUES** are creating an emotional flashpoint in the campaign, a disagreement between the candidates highlighted by the violent clashes that erupted in Charlottesville after white supremacists marched across the campus of the University of Virginia chanting Nazi slogans and holding tiki torches. Gillespie said the statues should stay in place with some added context, and he called for adding a statue of Virginia's first black governor to the state Capitol. Northam said local communities should be able to determine what they want to do with their statues, although he added he wants to see them in a museum.

"I think what is important is to talk about some of the statues that aren't built of bronze, the inequities that we still have in our society," said Northam during the debate. "Inequities in access to health care. Inequities in access to voting rights. Inequities that we have in education."

Views of the Affordable Care Act are also expected to play an important dividing line in the election. Northam has been consistent in his support for expanding Medicaid, criticizing Republicans for undermining a system that has expanded health insurance to millions of Americans who previously had

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 15



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Supervisor John C. Cook delivers a speech to the crowd at his fundraiser with Lolita Mancheno-Smoak, candidate for Delegate in District 42, and Alex Vogel, husband to candidate for Lieutenant Governor Jill Vogel.

## Cook Holds Annual Braddock BBQ

Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook held his annual Big Braddock BBQ fundraiser at Burke Lake Park on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017. Even though it is an off year for Supervisor Cook, this has become a tradition for friends and families. Almost 100 Braddock Republicans and Cook supporters gathered to hear from the Supervisor and state GOP nominees. Highlighting the special guests was John Adams, Republican candidate for Virginia Attorney General. Other speakers included Alex Vogel, husband of Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor Jill Vogel, and Lolita Mancheno-Smoak, Republican candidate for Delegate of District 42, the seat recently vacated by retiring Del. Dave Albo.



Braddock Supervisor John C. Cook, second from left, takes a picture with (from left) Lolita Mancheno-Smoak, Republican candidate for Delegate of District 42; John Adams, Republican candidate for Attorney General; and Alex Vogel, husband to Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor Jill Vogel



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John Adams speaks to the crowd. Supervisor John C. Cook and Lolita Mancheno-Smoak sit next to Adams and listen in.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# FAITH

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center**, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit [www.guhyasamaja.org](http://www.guhyasamaja.org) for more information.

**Lord of Life Lutheran** offers services at two locations, 5114 Twinbrook Road in Fairfax, and 13421 Twin Lakes Drive in Clifton. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:50 and 10:50 a.m. 703-323-9500 or [www.Lordoflifeva.org](http://www.Lordoflifeva.org).

**Clifton Presbyterian Church**, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Cup of Fellowship at 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

**St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church**, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on

Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or [www.st-andrew.org](http://www.st-andrew.org).

**Clifton Baptist Church**, 7152 Main St. Clifton, is a small Bible-believing church offering worship service on Sunday at 11 a.m., with Bible Study on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or [www.poplc.org](http://www.poplc.org).

**Franconia United Methodist Church**, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. 703-971-5151 or [admin@franconiaumc.org](mailto:admin@franconiaumc.org) or [www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org).

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

**JCCNV Mothers Circle** program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or [Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org](mailto:Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org).

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# OPINION

## Voting Every Year, But Always Critical

League of Women Voters provides forums to learn about the candidates.

Every year is Election Year in Virginia, and each year the election matters. This year, all the members of the Virginia House of Delegates are up for reelection, along with statewide races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

So many things are at stake. The deadline to register to vote in the General Election on Nov. 7, or update an existing registration, is Monday, Oct. 16.

Of the 30 incumbents in the Virginia House of Delegates who are running unopposed, 11 are in Northern Virginia: Mark Keam (D-35); Ken Plum (D-36); David Bulova (D-37); Vivian Watts (D-39); Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41); Mark Sickles (D-43); Paul Krizek (D-44); Mark Levine (D-45); Charniele Herring (D-46); Patrick Hope (D-47); and Rip Sullivan (D-48).

Marcus Simon (D-53) faces no Republican challenger, but will face Mike Casey, an Independent.

In Northern Virginia, there is only one open seat, the 42nd, vacated by Dave Albo (R) who says he can't afford to continue dedicate so much time to the legislature at the expense of his law practice. Kathy Tran (D) faces Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R).

Other contested races: Kathleen Murphy (D-34) faces Cheryl Buford (R). Kaye Kory (D-38) faces Paul Haring (R). Tim Hugo (R-40) faces

Donte Turner (D). Alfonso Lopez (D-49) faces Adam Roosevelt (R). Jim LeMunyon (R-67) faces Karrie Delaney (D). Jennifer Boysko (D-86) faces Linda Schulz (R).

The local Connection newspaper to each of these races has covered or will write about each contested race; you can find the stories on our website.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold both in-person and televised forums for the public to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates.

❖ Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Invited candidates: Mark L. Keam (D), David L. Bulova (D), Eileen Filler-Corn (D), Kathy K.L. Tran (D), Lolita I. Mancheno-Smoak (R), Marcus B. Simon (D), and Mike S. Casey (I).

❖ Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall: 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Invited candidates: L. Kaye Kory (D), Paul B. Haring (R), Vivian E. Watts (D), Mark D. Sickles (D), Paul E. Krizek (D), Mark H. Levine (D), Alfonso H. Lopez (D), and Adam Roosevelt (R).

❖ Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Invited candidates: Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), David L. Bulova (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz

(R).

The remaining televised forum at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to theinsidescooptv@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on:

❖ Monday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: Kathleen J. Murphy (D), Cheryl A. Buford (R), Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), R.C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

## Killing the Poor to Pay Millionaires, Current Attempt

Because the current effort in the Senate to vote on "repeal and replace" for the Affordable Care Act is, if anything, worse than the previous attempts in substance, I hope that you will read my previous editorial from June. <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jun/27/opinion-editorial-killing-poor-pay-millionaires/>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Taking the Call

BY LIZ BARNES  
PRS CRISISLINK VOLUNTEER

Beginning as a volunteer at PRS CrisisLink started for simple, altruistic reasons. I wanted to make a difference and show myself and my family the importance of giving back to others. The experience at Northern Virginia's hotline and textline was something far

more than I imagined it would be.

Training taught me that before you can help, you must listen. You must listen to understand, not listen to solve a problem. This is easier said than done because when someone is suffering, all anyone wants to do is fix it for them.

I learned people have incredible strength which turns into resilience and despite how much I love to give advice, people are already experts in their own lives. I also learned how many people feel lonely even when they are surrounded by others mostly because of the shame and isolation their experiences bring them. Above all,



I learned how important it is to always maintain a community connection through volunteering. If we can give

back, we must; the need is never going away.

Taking calls on the hotline has changed my life and all my experiences at PRS CrisisLink have made me a better human being. The passion I have for helping others has only intensified the more I listen. So many people have said to me "Oh, I could never work on a crisis hotline. It's too scary." Sometimes I would laugh and reply gently about how helping is important.

Now, after five years, I am a little bolder. Yes, it can be anxiety provoking to answer calls in which people are concretely thinking about ending their lives. Yes, having to make life-saving decisions on a phone line is stressful. However, it is an extreme privilege to witness the courage and vulnerability each person must have to



Volunteers at the PRS CrisisLink call center.

reach out when they are in that much pain. Furthermore, I am honored to be the person to listen in the moments where someone is lonely and hurting with no one else to call.

The honor I felt in these moments left me desiring to train other volunteers. I joined CrisisLink's training team. Through this, I have learned what it takes to be successful in this kind of work. Empathy, a desire to learn consistently, distress-tolerance, life-experience and a sincere desire to help others is the make-up of every one of our team members. Our volunteers include lawyers, teachers, stay-at-home parents, veterans, human service workers, architects, nurses, students, clergy,

law enforcement, and more — each offering 3-4 hours a week for an entire year to our life-saving services. Mental illness impacts more than the one person experiencing the crisis. It impacts our families, friends and community at large. This September, PRS is supporting National Suicide Prevention Month through the #CallTextLive Campaign, which has a number of ways to get involved that encourage dialogue about suicide. Talking about suicide will help more people feel comfortable to call or text a hotline. When they do, I stand ready to listen.

To volunteer, contact PRS at 703-531-6351.

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## COMMENTARY

# Playing Fantasy Politics

BY DAVE MARSDEN  
STATE SENATOR(D-37)

Some people love to play fantasy football.

Almost all of us love to play fantasy politics. Fantasy politics occurs when we become enamored of a candidate because somehow their background fits our ideal and we imbue them with characteristics that we have determined would make for a great chief executive. Be that a president or, in our upcoming election, a governor. However, our judgements are often unrelated to an individual's knowledge and ability to succeed in office.

It is often a harmless exercise and it does stimulate conversation around how we address the problems that confront us but we need to be careful. This year in Virginia we have a choice to make in our gubernatorial election. What I think we tend to undervalue, because we have limited exposure to it, is the importance of existing relationships for a governor with the legislature and the role that plays in getting important things done.

I am as guilty as anyone of playing this game but the longer I have been in elected office the more I realize that relationships are key to a governor's success in dealing with the legislature. Working with each other on bills, resolutions, and budget determinations is the way legislators of both parties get to know, respect, and feel comfortable with each other's judgments.

We have the opportunity this year to elect someone who is known, respected, and even liked by Republicans and Democrats in both the House and Senate of Virginia. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam served in the Senate for six years before becoming Lieutenant Gov-



ernor and it's easy to see the affection legislators have for him, regardless of political party. (This is in addition to his background as the head of the Honor Council at the Vir-

ginia Military Institute, his years as an Army doctor working on our seriously wounded during Desert Storm and the outstanding career he has maintained as a pediatric neurologist.) Does that mean that everyone will blindly follow his lead? Of course not. But what it does mean is that his conversation with the legislature as governor starts with familiarity and trust, allowing for compromise and progress for the citizens of Virginia.

You only get four years as governor in our Commonwealth. Spending your first year introducing yourself to everyone in Richmond has proven not to be a productive use of time. Our Commonwealth has been in a sustained period of growth and stability as we recover from the Recession of 2007. It is hopeful that our backlog of needs can be addressed and Virginia can continue its climb back to being the best state to do business, the best managed state, and continue our status as the best state to raise a child.

As much fun as fantasy politics can be, and as much as we like to make statements with our political choices, we have a Commonwealth to run. It has been rare in the past 30 years that we have elected a governor with strong existing relationships with the legislature. It may not sound exciting to make our political choices based on that criteria... but it works in our best interest. Ralph Northam is our best choice for governor.

## LETTER

# Confederate Symbols Belong in Museums

To the Editor:

White supremacists incited deadly violence in Charlottesville, Va. in defense of a Confederate monument. We must show the country that Fairfax County gives no safe harbor to such hatred. Let's remove the John Quincy Marr monument in Fairfax.

Confederate symbols on public land endorse a movement founded on white supremacy. We will never solve our community's problems if an entire

group of citizens is alienated or feels targeted for discrimination.

Confederate symbols belong in museums and on private property, and the time has long passed to move the John Quincy Marr monument to an appropriate place. Our community should figure out how to remove the monument and act on it.

Clare Bennett  
Vienna



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# New Year, New Teacher

## How to identify effective teachers.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**A**s a new school year got underway this month, Sebla Tobin, a family therapist in Rockville, Md., noticed an uptick in the number of her patients who are parents, expressing concern about the teachers their children had been assigned.

“So many parents are leery of new teachers or teachers who are young,” she said. “I encourage them to give the teacher a chance before passing judgment and marching into the principal’s office to ask for a different teacher. Just because a teacher graduated from college last spring doesn’t mean that they won’t be effective. And a teacher who’s been in the classroom for 20 years may be jaded and grumpy.”

Teacher effectiveness is a concern among parents as the school year gets underway, says Tobin, and she points to research which shows how teachers can affect student achievement. A 2011 study from Harvard and Columbia universities showed a link between effective teachers and students who were more likely to attend college, have lower teenage pregnancy rates and other positive outcomes. So what qualities constitute an effective teacher?

Effective teachers are knowledgeable of the subjects they are teaching, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. professor of Childhood Studies at George Mason University. “Effective teachers are able to transfer that knowledge to students who have different comprehension levels,” she said.

Creating a classroom environment that is safe for student learning is also important, adds Garner. “Overall, effective teachers work hard to create a positive classroom climate which is characterized by providing opportunities for student input in decision making and support for individual differences,” she said.

Setting high expectations for all students, but realizing that students have a variety of abilities, is an important factor, believes Jessica Lewis, Ed.D., professor of education at Marymount University. “For some students getting a C is like a medal of honor



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**A positive classroom helps welcome students back to school is an important factor in student learning, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. of George Mason University.**

and that’s OK,” said Lewis. “Students want to do well and be pushed, but pushed with support. Knowing that a teacher understands the student and their abilities sends a positive message that the teacher is on their side when it comes to learning.”

A teacher who is able to demonstrate genuine concern for students is necessary to create an effective learning environment, adds Lewis. “Parents often say ‘I want a teacher who knows their content,’ but I always go back to ‘does the teacher care?’ If a teacher doesn’t care, then they’re not going to be effective. An effective teacher motivates students to want to learn.”

An ability to form a strong relationship with students is another characteristic that Lewis believes is important. “The more rapidly the teachers can get

to know the individual students and things they enjoy like their hobbies, the sports they like, the sooner that teacher can see that students are real little people behind those names,” she said. “As a teacher you have to put the heart first and policy second.

What factors are going on at home that can throw the student for a loop. If you have a caring adult to say, ‘Hey do you want to talk about it?’ that can make a big difference.”

An effective teacher accepts students for and where they are, adds Lewis. “Students can learn more from a teacher when the teacher shows that they care,” she said.

**“An effective teacher motivates students to want to learn.”**

— Jessica Lewis, Ed.D.,  
 Marymount University



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# SCHOOLS

## Orange Hunt Elementary Kicks-off Positivity Project

Orange Hunt Elementary held a pep rally on Friday, Sept. 8 to kick-off the start of the year-long Positivity Project which encourages students to build strong relationships by seeing the character strengths in themselves and others.



The entire school gathered to cheer on the start of the Positivity Project. Students made signs and cheers to introduce the 24 character traits they will be discussing this year.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Orange Hunt fourth grade teachers and specialists gather before the start of the Positivity Project pep rally. Back row: Donna Jones, Jess Joyner, Jill McDaniel, and Emily Slovensky. Front row: Alana Stanley, Heather Gillespie, and Katie Thomason.



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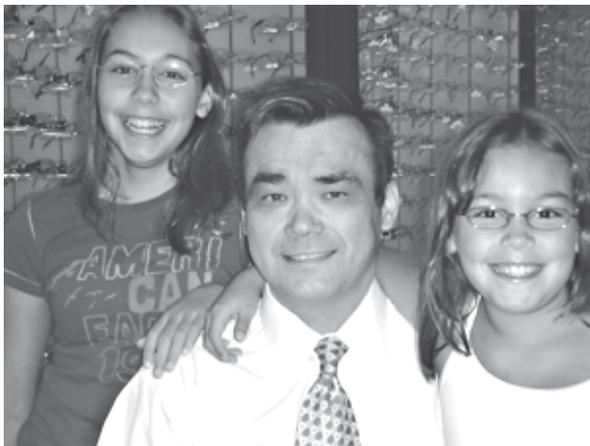
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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

### The Trawick Prize Art Exhibit.

Through Sept. 30, various times at at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E. Bethesda. Burke artist Michele Montalbano named as one of the finalists for the Trawick Prize. Call 301-215-7990.

**Artist Marilyn Harrington's** "Dyeing to Change," exhibit, is on display at the Workhouse Art Center, 9518 Workhouse Rpad, Lorton through Oct. 8. Call 703-584-2900.

**Lake Accotink Park Carousel Closed, Mini-golf and Marina Open.** The carousel at Lake Accotink Park has been closed for the remainder of the 2017 operating season for needed repair work. The mini-golf and marina will continue operating as normally scheduled through Oct. 16. Call 703-324-8745.

## SEPT. 21-24

**Golf Tournament.** All day at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Middle Atlantic Amateur Championship. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc) or call 703-439-8849.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 22

**Geology at Lake Accotink.** 5-6 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Participants experiment with rocks and test their hardness in this hands-on class at the park. Call 703-569-3464 visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

**Mosby Bus Tour.** 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The bus will leave from the Truro Parish, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. The tour will visit Mosby sites in Prince William, Fauquier and Loudoun Counties. Call 703-971-4984 or email [dhakenson@verizon.net](mailto:dhakenson@verizon.net).

**Irish Folk Festival.** noon-7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Center at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, or The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. \$10 per person; \$20 family maximum admission. Call 703-385-7858.

**Meet the Author.** 2 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War - For Better and for Worse" Author Candace Shy Hooper will discuss how Julia Grant, Ellen Sherman, Nelly McClellan, and Jessie Fremont influenced their husband's careers. Free. Call 703-385-8414.

**Meet the Author.** 4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Kristin Cashore reviews her new book "Tu Reviens," about an island mansion. Visit [stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2937](http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2937) or call 703-278-0300.

**The 12th Annual "ARTS by George!"** 5 p.m. at deLaski Performing Arts Building, Harris Theatre, and Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gala performance by Broadway star Kelli O'Hara plus student showcases, buffets and wine bars, and silent and live auctions. Email [erusch2@gmu.edu](mailto:erusch2@gmu.edu) or 703-993-3872, or visit [artsbygeorge.gmu.edu](http://artsbygeorge.gmu.edu).

## SEPT. 23-24

**Fall Festival.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride,



**The Boyle School of Irish Dance outside the Sherwood Center.**

PHOTO BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

## Irish Festival in Fairfax, Sept. 23

The sounds and sights of Irish singers, dancers and musicians will fill the air during the 22nd Annual CCE Irish Folk Festival in the City of Fairfax. Set for Saturday, Sept. 23, from noon-7:30 p.m., music performances and cultural displays will be held at the Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, and at the Auld Shebeen Irish Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road.

Dublin-based Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE) is the largest, nonprofit group involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music and culture. This family-friendly event is presented in cooperation with the City of Fairfax and the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. It takes place rain or shine, parking is free and venues are handicap-accessible. Cost is \$10/person, with a \$20/family maximum.

Irish music and dance will be performed by both world-class artists and regional all-stars. Headline performers include Kieran O'Hare, Liz Knowles and Pat Broaders, Open the Door for 3, National Heritage Fellow and accordion maestro Billy McComiskey, Sean Clohessy, Sean McComiskey, Matt Mulqueen, Josh Dukes and Kieran Jordan, Cover the Buckle, and Aoife Scott and Band

Tunes will be played on the fiddle, banjo, pipes, flute, accordion and drum. Attendees will also experience the vibrancy and riches of Irish traditional songs, dances, culture and community through step dancing, social dancing, plus sean-nós dance performances including Shannon Dunne Dance. For a detailed schedule of the music sessions, performances and instructional workshops, go to [www.CCEIrishfest.org](http://www.CCEIrishfest.org).

and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit [www.whitehall.farm](http://www.whitehall.farm).

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

**Building a Train Set.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Activities include making a sample train layout as well as involvement in demonstrations of railroad artifacts. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Craft supplies included in admission. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), or call 703-425-9225.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 25

**Tai Chi Easy.** 2-3 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kingsway, Fairfax. Pauline Reid, teaches Tai Chi, a form of the Chinese self-care practices known as Qigong. This class is suitable for beginners through advanced practitioners. \$90 for Monday nights through Nov. 6. Email Pauline at [reidpr@hotmail.com](mailto:reidpr@hotmail.com) or contact the church office 703-378-7272, ext. 221.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

**Tai Chi.** 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola. Call 703-385-7858.

**Meet the Civil War Author.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Local historian, lecturer and author, Arthur Candanquist will look at a Confederate military railroad that ran between Centreville and Manassas Junction. Free, open to public. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

**Visiting Filmmakers.** 4:30 p.m. at the Johnson Center Cinema, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series presents: "Cameraperson," free screening and Q&A with Kirsten Johnson. Visit [favs.gmu.edu](http://favs.gmu.edu).

**Mars Rodeo Concert.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Hometown Thursdays series will host local bands from the Fairfax area. Free. Call 703-385-7858.

## SEPT. 28-OCT. 1

**Fall Book Sale.** Various times at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. George Mason Friends, a Friends of the Library organization annual book sale. Call 571-314-1947.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

**Geology at Lake Accotink.** 5-6 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Participants

experiment with rocks and test their hardness in this hands-on class at the park. Call 703-569-3464 visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/).

**Wine Tasting.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. This event features wine tasting and a silent auction of goods and services. Free. Visit [www.historicfairfax.org](http://www.historicfairfax.org) for more or call 703-385-7858.

**Pilates Open House.** 6:30-8 p.m. at Studio BE Pilates, 4211 Fairfax Corner Ave., East, #200, Fairfax. Meet and greet with pilates guru Kevin Bowen and see Pilates demonstrations. Bowen will give a talk about the importance of a Pilates practice as we age. Email [info@studiobepilates.com](mailto:info@studiobepilates.com) or call 703-222-0122.

**Music on the Plaza.** 7 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Call 703-385-7858.

**Bingo.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Smoke free Bingo, free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com), or call 703-273-3638.

**Comedy on Stage.** 7:30 p.m. at the Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Hwy, Fairfax. Show by Krish Mohan, a nationally touring stand up comedian. Visit

[ramannoodlescomedy.com/press/](http://ramannoodlescomedy.com/press/).

## SEPT. 29-OCT. 8

**Disney on Ice.** Various times at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. "Dare To Dream," show featuring an expedition across seas and mountains with characters from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," "Frozen," "Tangled" and "Cinderella." \$20 and up. Call 1-800-745-3000, via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), or visit [DisneyOnIce.com](http://DisneyOnIce.com).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**Kidz Korner.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment. Call 703-385-7858.

**Organ Recital.** 11:30 a.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The recital on the Noack Pipe Organ with 16 stops, 18 ranks, and 948 pipes will include selections from J. S. Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, and other music from the 18th to 20th Century. Call 703-339-6572 or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

**Bingo.** 1-3 p.m. at Parish Center Gym, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$10 for two cards, proceeds benefit the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. Call 703-426-2824.

**Concerts from Kirkwood.** 3 p.m. at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Hot Lanes Jazz Band, led by composer, arranger, performer and director Bobby Jasinski. Email [concerts@kirkwoodpres.com](mailto:concerts@kirkwoodpres.com), visit [www.kirkwoodpres.com](http://www.kirkwoodpres.com), or call 703-451-5320.

## SEPT. 30-OCT. 1

**Fall Festival.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit [www.whitehall.farm](http://www.whitehall.farm).

## OCT. 2-NOV. 6

**Adventures 'N Learning.** 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The class starts with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal development, finance, and more. \$30 for six weeks. Call 703-426-2824, or visit [www.scbva.org](http://www.scbva.org).

## MONDAY/OCT. 2

**Funday Monday.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Mr. Skip: Fun & Songs for children. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

## TUESDAY/OCT. 3

**Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Story Times at Old Town Square for children every Tuesday morning. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

## FRIDAY/OCT. 6

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department hosts smoke free Bingo, \$1000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire & rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com), or call 703-273-3638.

# COMMUNITY

**Organizers take a break from cooking bratwurst on the grill.**



PHOTOS BY ROBERT HEALY  
THE CONNECTION

## 200 Take Part in Volksmarch in Burke

BY ROBERT HEALY  
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, Sept. 16, the eighth annual Volksmarch of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church was held in Burke. Participants enjoyed a crisp fall day filled with hiking, music and bicycles. The scent of cooking bratwursts permeated the air, while polka music played in the background.

More than 200 people including organizers and walkers were involved. Some 160 bicyclists and walkers covered either a 5k or 10k course. The stroll along the hills and shores of Burke Lake offered a relaxing experience for all those involved.

Similar walks take place all over the world coinciding with the German tradition of Oktoberfest. Hikes bring together family and friends to enjoy the great outdoors.

More than 3,500 of these walks take place here in the United States, and many more in countries such as Taiwan, Estonia and France. Collecting and trading pins and badges is one of the experiences walkers can share. Rebecca Mackey spoke of how she had received a homemade button comprising safety pins following her completion of the Taiwanese Volksmarch.

The event is sponsored by the American Volkssport Association, the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers and Potomac Pedalers Touring Club. Other hikes by the American Volkssport Association have occurred in



**Bob Westin, left, showing off his one-man instrument.**

Yellowstone National Park, and Glacier National Park. Parks like these and that of Burke Lake, offer a beautiful backdrop for walkers and riders alike.

Marchers come together to share stories about other Volksmarches and enjoy food, beer and music like those in Germany.

Jim Truscott, who has been coming to the Burke Lake Volksmarch since its inception in 2009, shared a story about a 100 Kilometer French hike in which all competitors had completed the course with a heavy rock in their backpack. Hikes can vary in length and difficulty but provide an excellent opportunity to relax outside with family members and friends.

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# A Tale of Two Immigrants

Candidates hoping to replace Dave Albo are both living the American Dream.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

One is from Ecuador. The other is from Vietnam. Both are successful professional women hoping to fill the seat vacated by retiring Del. Dave Albo (R-42). But only one will prevail in November, creating one of the fiercest political contests on the ballot in Northern Virginia this year.

Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak is a proud supporter of President Donald Trump, a man she calls a “positive disruptor.”

Democrat Kathy Tran has emerged as a leading voice of the opposition to a Republican White House, and her campaign is enjoying support from groups like People for the American Way and billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer.

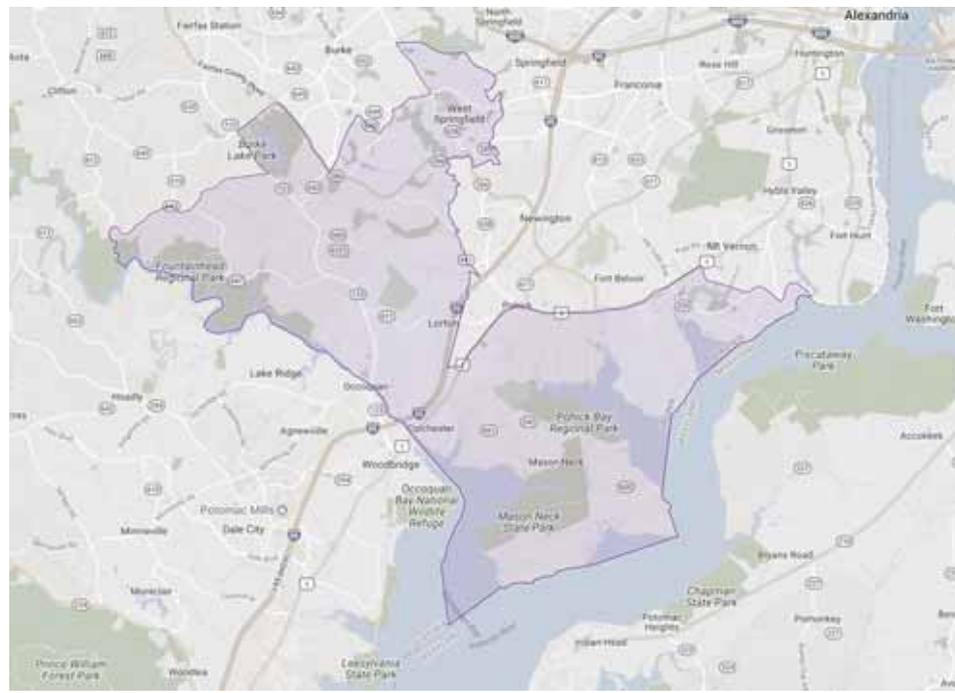
“My opponent is a Tea Party activist who says that Trump is her ideal presidential candidate,” said Tran, shortly after appearing at a press conference with Steyer. “She wants to defund Planned Parenthood, and she hasn’t walked back any support of Trump.”

Mancheno-Smoak is against Medicaid expansion, and she wants to defund Planned Parenthood. But like Albo, some of her views are not necessarily orthodox Republican. For example, she says she would vote in favor of closing the gun show loophole. And she says she would vote in favor of allowing local governments the ability to remove Confederate statues. As for the allegation that she is a Tea Party activist, Mancheno-Smoak rejects that description. She acknowledges that she spoke at several Tea Party meetings, but she says she was asked to speak as a candidate when she was running for the Fairfax County School Board. As for her early support for Donald Trump, she stands by the controversial president who lost her district by 20 percent.

“Sometimes in order to generate change, in order to get new energy to actually feel passionate about a new beginning you need positive disruption,” said Mancheno-Smoak while campaigning for votes at the Burke farmer’s market. “I see Trump as a positive disruptor.”

**THE 42ND HOUSE DISTRICT** stretches from West Springfield south into Colchester into Fort Belvoir and Mason Neck. It includes the historic estates of both George Washington and George Mason. Although Republican Bob McDonnell beat Democrat Creigh Deeds in the district back in 2009, its recent history in statewide elections has been solidly blue. Last year, Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump in this district — 57 percent for the Democrat, 37 percent for the Republican. That puts this race at the top of the agenda for Democrats, who see the retirement of Albo as one of the best possibilities of the year.

“There’s no question that HD-42 is one of the Democrats’ top pick-up targets and therefore one of the main down-ballot races



The 42nd House District stretches from West Springfield south into Colchester into Fort Belvoir and Mason Neck.



Kathy Tran speaks at a press conference in her campaign headquarters announcing support from People for the American Way.

to watch this year,” said Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. “Without the popular Albo running for the GOP, the crossover support that he received in the past will surely be harder to come by for Mancheno-Smoak.”

Campaign finance numbers show that Tran has a sizable fundraising advantage over the Mancheno-Smoak, an indication that Democrats in Northern Virginia and beyond are focusing attention and cash on this district as one of the most likely opportunities to turn a red district blue this year. Tran has raised almost \$120,000 while Mancheno-Smoak has raised less than \$10,000. And heading into the most heated part of the campaign season, the Democrat has about \$45,000 cash on hand while the Republican has about \$1,000.

“Given Tran’s fundraising edge and the fact that the district had a Democrat lean in statewide elections before 2016 — McAuliffe won it by seven points in 2013, as did Obama in 2012 — the seat is vulnerable with Albo out of the picture,” said Skelley. “And considering Clinton’s 20-point



Lolita Mancheno-Smoak campaigns for votes at the Burke farmer’s market.

win here in 2016 and Northern Virginia’s likely strong performance for Ralph Northam at the top of the Democratic ticket, most signs are good for Democrats in HD-42.”

**MANCHENO-SMOAK**, 58, is a native of Ecuador. She came to America as an infant, resettling in Manhattan. She moved to Northern Virginia in 1999, attracted to the region by a job working for the United States Postal Service. She has a bachelor’s degree in engineering from Columbia University and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Miami in Florida and a doctorate in business from NOVA Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. Professionally, she started her career working for a German pharmaceutical company before becoming a management consultant.

“I just want to be a stronger voice for our district, for our community,” said Mancheno-Smoak. “We need to focus on ensuring that there is economic growth across the commonwealth so that other parts of Virginia become more self-sustain-

ing and then we have less of a burden of being Virginia’s ATM.”

If elected, she says, she would introduce legislation to restructure business, professional, and occupancy licenses. Instead of calculating the taxes on gross receipts, she says, they should be based on net profits to create a “more level playing field.” She says she would also introduce a bill that would change how funding for secondary roads is allocated by the Virginia Department of Transportation, creating a similar set of objective criteria that already exists for primary roads. Mancheno-Smoak says she would also like to change the composite index that moves tax dollars from wealthier areas like Fairfax County to poorer areas like Radford or Dickenson County.

“We need to incorporate our cost of living, and our cost of living is higher than any other place of the state,” says Mancheno-Smoak. “And if we could at least incorporate that, it would give us a better stance with the kind of funding that we need for our public school system.”

**TRAN**, 39, is a native of Vietnam. She came to America as an infant, resettling in Southern California. She moved to West Springfield about three years ago, attracted to Northern Virginia by the public school system. She has a bachelor’s degree in history from Duke University and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Michigan. She was at the United States Department of Labor for 12 years, working in different leadership and management positions shaping national workforce policies. Then she went to work in immigration advocacy at the National Immigration Forum, working at the intersection of immigration policy and workforce development policy.

“I’m doing this for my kids,” said Tran. “I’m a mom of four, and I want to make sure that my kids have the best and brightest future and not just them but all the other children and families in my community, and that’s what this election is really all about.”

If elected, she says, she would vote against hospital construction standards for abortion clinics and for closing the gun show loophole as well as allowing local governments the ability to remove Confederate statues. If elected, she would introduce legislation that would encourage recycling of coal ash, the byproduct of coal-fired power production. She says she would also introduce legislation strengthening career and technical education programs by creating stronger partnerships with employers who would provide input into the curriculum.

For Tran, the biggest priority would be expanding Medicaid to the 400,000 people who qualify but don’t currently have health insurance because of Republican opposition.

“For me, it’s a moral issue because I believe that everybody has a right to health care,” said Tran. “It’s also an economic issue because we’ve left more than \$10 billion on the table, and so that’s our taxpayer dollars that we’re not utilizing.”

# SPORTS

## In Competitive Mode At Senior Olympics



Leonard Kalkwarf from Springfield throws a Frisbee in the 85-89 age group. He won a gold medal with a throw of 53' 6".



Medal winners in the 50 yard backstroke in the 85-89 age group — from left: Don McPherson from Ashburn won silver, Phil Case from Springfield won gold, and Willard Rieger from Springfield won bronze.

PHOTOS BY  
TOM MANNING/  
THE CONNECTION

John Dineen from Springfield swims his way to a gold medal in the 50 yard breaststroke in the 75-79 age group. He stays in shape by working out every day at the South Run RECenter.



Lisa Ninomiya from Vienna throws the mini javelin in the 55-59 age group.



Swimmers take their starting positions on the blocks for the second heat of the 100 yard freestyle.



Joanne Shabelski from Alexandria waits for start of the 50 yard breaststroke in the 55-59 age group. She won a silver medal in the event and is an Alexandria Masters Swimming member.

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## SPORTS

# Senior Olympics Rolls Along

## Green Acres Senior Center hosts bocce competition.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

Despite forecasts of post-Hurricane showers, things rolled along in bright sun at the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics bocce competition on Thursday, Sept. 14. Nineteen competitors in five age groups from 50-99 are signed up at Green Acres Senior Center in Fairfax. Competitors and onlookers sat at picnic tables munching donuts and drinking water to cool down as they waited for the competition to begin.

Ninety-two-old Henry Coletto from Oakton, the oldest competitor, has no one in his age group for competition so he was paired with Sonny Caputo from Springfield in the 80-89 age group. Caputo says this is his first Senior Olympics although he is playing in the regular bocce league. Coletto's regular league partner, Nicholas Garito of Fairfax, is also competing. "Henry and I had a tough year. We came from last place to third place," Garito said, adding he got the bocce program started 10 years ago and convinced the Lions Club to build the court five years ago.

Coletto says he lived in Massachusetts for 82 years and then four of his children who live around here "kidnapped me and brought me here." He had driven to the competition from Oakton. He said, "My children don't believe I should drive too much anymore."

Robena Reid of Lorton and Lynn Thompson of Fairfax started out with the women's 55-59 competition. Reid says she is kind of a novice, and Thompson says this is her first tournament, and she has practiced twice. Pink balls, blue balls, back and forth.

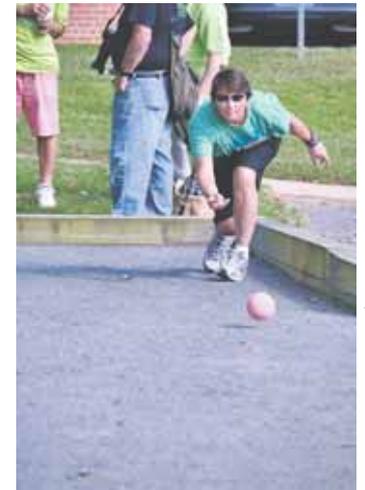
Charlie Perla, bocce ref, said, "Here we go measuring again. Blue is closer and touching. No, no, no

it's red." He adds, "Get out the dollar bill." The test of touching is whether you can get a dollar bill between the balls. "I can't believe it: did they both get gold?" He measures again and the final result is Reid wins by one inch.

Herb Levitan of Arlington plays one of the later competitions. He says he is registered in 27 events this year but may not be able to do a couple of them on Saturday since he is also organizing a table tennis match at the same time.



**Sonny Caputo of Springfield in first competition.**



**Robena Reid of Lorton.**



**Nicholas Garito of Fairfax.**



**Lynn Thompson of Fairfax.**

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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# Debate

FROM PAGE 3

no coverage. Gillespie has been consistently critical of the landmark achievement of former President Barack Obama, although he was noncommittal when asked about his view of the reform proposal currently working its way through Congress.

"I'm not endorsing or opposing any specific legislation that is being talked about right now. I haven't had a chance to read it," said Gillespie after the debate, adding that Virginia should not be punished for declining to expand Medicaid. "But as a principle I've been consistent in this regard, and that is where I am today."

**PERHAPS NOTHING** looms as large over this election as Donald Trump. The president has become a lightning rod of opposition and a rallying cry for people who feel marginalized. Virginia was the only Southern state Trump lost, and polls show that he remains unpopular here. Gillespie has been trying to distance himself from the president by opposing some of his budget proposals and declining to answer questions about whether he'll ask Trump to campaign for him in Virginia.

"Probably the biggest thing being hung around Ed's neck is the Trump administration," said Republican strategist Dan Scandling. "But depending where you are in the state determines how much of a weight that is. If you're downstate, that's not a problem. If you're up here in Northern Virginia, it's a potential problem."

Democrat Hillary Clinton won Virginia with 50 percent of the vote, with Trump at 44 percent. Many of those presidential year voters might not show up in an odd year election, when the electorate tends to be older and whiter. For Democrats, the goal heading into Election Day is to run up the numbers in Northern Virginia and overwhelm Republicans in parts of the state that still support Trump. For Republicans, the challenge is find some kind of way of embracing Trump voters without alienating independents who might feel conflicted about the president.

"I think what's really going to drive the election is President Trump," said Democratic strategist Ben Tribbett. "A lot of voters are going to vote either for or against Ed Gillespie based on how they feel about Donald Trump."

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## Talking the Walk



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Our long, local, overnight nightmare is almost over. By the date this column publishes: Sept. 20, 2017, I will, for the first time in nearly nine weeks, not had to have snaked down in the dark, our "turny-twisty" and narrow 150-year-old staircase to walk from the upstairs master bedroom to the downstairs and only usable commode. Though the renovation of this upstairs bathroom is not entirely complete nor ready for primetime (it is mostly usable as the water is now running and flushing), the demolition/renovation process apparently must go on/adhere to a schedule so, on Tuesday, Sept. 19 the downstairs bathroom, with all its fully functioning amenities will come under the sledge hammer – among other tools, and provide no further use until on or about Oct. 24.

This heretofore ("Good Will Hunting") logistical challenge has not presented too many difficulties for my wife, Dina. But given that I'm a male of a certain age, quite the opposite has been true for me. Once or twice and occasionally even more per overnight depending upon how late and how much I've had to eat or drink before bedtime, I'll need to visit the bathroom to attend to some very personal business. To be clear, the 'challenge' to which I refer is getting to the bathroom, not starting and/or finishing what I intended once I get there.

Moreover, when the task at hand has been completed, of course I need to retrace my steps – usually in the dark, and walk back upstairs. Though not nearly as difficult as walking downstairs; nevertheless, at the time I am going down and back up, in the middle of the night, my vision might not so readily acclimate and my balance is, let's just say: inconsistent, especially when trying to avoid the miscellaneous bathroom-remodeling boxes staged in the living room on the very route I must travel.

Needless to say, having this nightly nonsense come to an end is most definitely a column worth writing. Not necessarily to self-indulge anymore than usual but more so to amuse you regular readers and possibly even prepare you for your own in-home renovation. And considering that this renovation is our first – and we have minimal experience with these matters, I thought it useful to write it forward and perhaps share a less-than-obvious impact of taking the one-and-only-on-the-same-floor bathroom out of service. Sinks, mirrors and shower/tub issues notwithstanding, all of which can be withstood and endured with the reorientation to the downstairs bathroom, the commode issue, considering its unpredictability, naturally trumps all other real or imagined difficulties.

Though the upstairs bathroom is incomplete and lacking multiple finishing elements, its transformation so far is incredible – to our eyes. I'll spare you any details because that really would be self-indulgent and not at all the point of this column. But the two months or so it will have taken for the upstairs bathroom to become operational again and the nightly effect it's had on me appears to have been worth the wait.

As concerns the downstairs bathroom, we are now ready, willing and able to integrate its destruction into our routine. Given that it is more of a powder room than a master-type bathroom – though it will include a shower-only enclosure, no longer will it be my twice-nightly destination. In addition, I am looking forward to its transformation because the interim process will not prevent me from going anywhere I regularly go nor inconveniencing my wife, Dina, when she readies for work in the morning.

Monitoring its progress will be more of a curiosity than a calamity, since, in my mind, there will be no sense of urgency about the pace of this project as there had been with the upstairs bathroom because my bathroom access will not be affected in the least. And in the most, I am extraordinarily grateful – and relieved.

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



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**Gainesville - Heritage Hunt 55+ - \$599,900**  
PRIVATE RETREAT! Backs to woods - front porch water view! 3 lvl "Tigerlily", 3 BR, 3 BA, Den, gray Kit w island, SS Appls, Liv, Din, Sunrm, Gas Fpl, HDWDS, Fans, Blinds, Loft, Walkout LL, Screen porch, 2 car Gar, Irrigation sys. NEW ROOF! Views!  
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**David Levent**  
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**JUST LISTED**  
Fairfax - \$459,900  
Meticulously Maintained 3 Level Brick Front Townhouse has 3 Bedrooms 3 Full, 1 Half Bath. New Carpet and Paint. Recently Replaced Kitchen Appliances Hardwoods Throughout Main Level. Kitchen Walks Out to Spacious Deck Overlooking Manicured Common Area. Lower Level has Den, Full Bath, and Large Rec Room. New Lighting Fixtures & Blinds. All Windows Replaced.



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
Burke \$645,000  
Lovely Burke Home. 5 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, 2 Car Gar. Kitchen remodeled with corian counters, SS appliances, ceramic tile flooring & tile backsplash. Stone walkway and matching front porch. New Windows in 2014. New blinds 2016. 2 Zone Heating. Baths remodeled 2014. Hardwood floors main level. Fin Basement w/ new carpeting & full bath. Lovely Signal Hill neighborhood. Call for addtl details & pricing.

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[www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com](http://www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com)  
**Springfield \$400,000**  
Beautifully updated 3BR, 3.5BA TH in popular Shannon Station! Hardwood floors on ML. Updated Kitchen w/ granite, SS appliances, and decorator backsplash. Fenced yard backs to wooded common area.



**ELLIE WESTER**  
703-503-1880  
L&F Founder's Club  
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer  
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club  
[ellie.wester@longandfooster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfooster.com)  
**UNDER CONTRACT**  
Fairfax Station - \$699,000  
Beautifully maintained and improved home in the desirable Fairfax Station neighborhood. Over 2800 finished space with updated baths and kitchen, 4 bedrooms, main level library as well as replacement windows. Half acre with common area on three sides. Neighborhood swim club and tennis.



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