



Hermione Clarke, a Reston resident and Chinese Teacher and her daughter Ellen Clarke attended the Multicultural Festival at Lake Anne in Reston Sunday, Sept. 24.

Community Fired Up To Oppose Lift in Reston Density Cap

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Multicultural Festival Welcomes New Citizens

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PHOTO BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

New U.S. Citizens Welcomed at Lake Anne Multicultural Festival

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

The Multicultural Festival at Lake Anne in Reston featured food trucks, shopping, arts and crafts, music, dancing and naturalization for new U.S. citizens. Marcello Novo, an artist from Alexandria was one of the newly sworn in American Citizens Saturday.

"It is very exciting. I am very proud to be an American. Here is much more multicultural than where I come from, there are people from all over the world," he said. Novo is originally from Argentina.

Multicultural was the theme of the festival, which was a celebration of diversity and community spirit for Reston. The event was sponsored and staffed by the Reston Community Center and it offered a chance for these new citizens to feel welcomed into their community. With pressure on immigration in politics, events like the Reston Multicultural Festival stand out as different and welcoming, and embody the spirit of the United States.

The naturalization ceremony featured Sarah Taylor, Washington District Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Different tables represented different cultural crafts, foods, and activities. Mishal



From left: Marissa Thompson, administrative assistant with the Fairfax County Office of Elections and Pat Ferguson, outreach manager for the Office of Elections staff a booth to register new voters at the Multicultural Festival at Lake Anne in Reston Sunday, Sept. 24.

Khattah, a ninth grade student at South Lakes and a Reston resident and her friend Samarra Pack of Fairfax, an eighth grader at Rocky Run Middle were in charge of a bracelet making booth.

"I think it's cool, all these different cultures coming together for the kids to learn from," said Pack. "These are the people that always live here," said Khattah.

Voting was another important aspect of



Newly naturalized citizens celebrate at the naturalization ceremony at the Multicultural Festival at Lake Anne in Reston Sunday, Sept. 24.

the multicultural festival.

"After naturalization, the new U.S. citizens can register to vote, while they're here and motivated," said Pat Ferguson, outreach manager for Fairfax County Office of Elections.

Marissa Thompson, administrative assistant with the Office of Elections was also working to help register people to vote at the festival.



Claudia Reyes, Reston resident and owner of Casero Bolivian Restaurant, puts empanadas in a warming oven at the Multicultural Festival at Lake Anne in Reston Sunday, Sept. 24.

"I love the ceremonies and people appreciate the very important work that we go through to register voters. Not everyone has access to a computer at home," she said.

Reston Community Center staff member Chelsea LeSage was working at an arts crafts booth at the festival Saturday. "The festival makes me feel more connected to the community" she said.

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Republican Ed Gillespie speaks at the Sept. 19 debate.



Democrat Ralph Northam (right) speaks at the Sept. 19 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 in Northern Virginia on Sept. 19 illustrated the fickle nature of Rorschach politics in the age of Trump as both candidates tried to shape the narrative. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce and moderated by Chuck Todd of NBC’s “Meet the Press,” the televised debate was held at Capital One headquarters in McLean on Sept. 19. Panelists included Julie Carey of NBC4, Aaron Gilchrist of NBC4 and Mark Rozell of George Mason University.

Several times during the debate, Gillespie rattled off a series of data points about sluggish job growth and stories of people leav-

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

phasizing 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

“You see a lot of undecided voters, which means both campaigns have a lot of work to do between now and November.”

— Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington

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

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 11

OPINION

Dire and Urgent

Does current repeal effort set the stage for billions in tax cuts for the wealthiest?

“Dire and urgent.” Those are the words used by U.S. Sen. Mark Warner to describe the need to turn back the most recent attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

In addition to repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act with a plan that would result in chaos, the Graham-Cassidy bill also repeals Medicaid as we know it, Virginia’s senators said in a call with reporters last week.

“Why are they going after Medicaid?” asked U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine. Per capita caps on Medicaid have “nothing to do with the Affordable Care Act.”

The proposed cuts include \$243 billion less between 2020 and 2026 for the ACA’s expansion of Medicaid, and cuts to the rest of Med-

icaid of \$175 billion during the same period, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis. The cuts would grow dramatically in 2027, with nearly \$300 billion more in cuts that year alone.

“Why go after Medicaid? Why?” Kaine asked again. Kaine is pretty sure he knows the answer: To generate money for billions in tax cuts for the wealthy.

EDITORIAL

“Senators who support this [repeal], who think that the Federal government should not be paying for health care for the poor, for the aged, for the disabled, are planning to give this money to the wealthiest Americans in tax cuts.”

“We must resist that at all costs.”

While the Graham-Cassidy bill appears to lack the votes to pass right now, and many

people predict that the Senate will move on from trying to repeal and replace the affordable care act, vigilance is still required.

These ongoing efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act also threaten the quality of coverage for everyone by shredding protection on pre-existing conditions, by stripping funding for addiction and mental health treatment in the midst of a nationwide opioid epidemic, by allowing lifetime caps on coverage that would leave the most seriously ill patients without coverage, by undermining what constitutes “essential benefits,” the very definition of what one expects to be covered by insurance.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Playing Fantasy Politics

BY DAVE MARSDEN
STATE SENATOR(D-37)



COMMENTARY

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 judgments 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, re-

spect, 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 Governor 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 Virginia 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

SEE MARSDEN, PAGE 10

Fairfax County at 275 Years

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



COMMENTARY

Fairfax County is celebrating the 275th anniversary of its formation when in 1742 it was split off from Prince William County to be a separate county encompassing what we now know as the current county plus Loudoun and Arlington Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax. It was named for Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax who had a proprietary of 5,282,000 acres. For a time a part of the county that is now Arlington County and the City of Alexandria was a part of the 10 square miles that makes up the District of Columbia until those jurisdictions were returned to Virginia.

Fairfax County is compared today with jurisdictions throughout the country as it leads in economic growth and development in many ways. That national comparison was not always appropriate. In its early years it was a struggling community raising tobacco with the labor of enslaved black persons. By 1749 the county’s population was 28 percent enslaved persons; by 1782 that number had reached 41 percent.

The county’s early fame came from its two most important residents: George Mason who wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution and whose work led to the Bill of Rights in our national Constitution and George Washington who as our first president brought the country together and whose service in office set important precedents that continue today.

Surprisingly Fairfax County voted with the South to secede from the Union leading up to the Civil War. While the County was not the scene of major military battles, there were many skirmishes and an almost constant flow of troops passing through it. After the war and reconstruction, investments started to flow to the county that helped its recovery. Although still an agricultural community at that time, the following decades brought significant changes that led to the community as we know it today.

Not surprisingly, one of the big issues was transportation. In the early years most settlements were along the rivers that provided a means for transporting tobacco and crops. As inland developments occurred there was no governmental mechanism for building roads. Those that were in place were narrow without a hard surface. New turnpikes supported by tolls included the Little River Turnpike, Columbia Turnpike, Leesburg Turnpike and Falls Bridge Turnpike. The start of railroads before the Civil War accelerated with the electric trolley lines that followed. It is estimated that as many as a million passengers or more were carried per year by the Washington, Alexandria, and Mt. Vernon electric railways that ran 30 trips per day.

The growth of the federal government after the Great Depression and the World Wars brought huge growth to Fairfax County. Its

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OPINION

Will Virginia Pols Give Up GERRYmandering?

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

These are trying times for our political system and for the people it is supposed to serve. Rather than serving to make the U.S. an even better place to live with an improved quality of life for all, too many politicians focus on re-election and interests that advantage some over others and tend to divide us rather than bring us together. Money seems to do the talking that counts with the pols.

Polling shows politicians viewed about as favorably as communicable diseases. Not surprisingly, most people do not vote regularly; and, many do not vote at all. The winner of the nasty, hotly contested 2016 Presidential election, for example, won with votes of barely 28 percent of eligible voters.

Among the reasons for Americans' distaste and rampant apathy is the rigged drawing of Congressional and state legislative districts. The rigging is called gerrymandering, the process by which political parties re-draw districts, following decennial censuses, by picking voters to protect incumbents and their party. Gerrymandering is practiced in nearly all states. The Republicans, currently dominant in the Virginia legislature, are most resistant to reform, as were the Democrats when they were in power. Sadly, Virginia is a leading example of gerrymandering, rated fifth in the U.S. in its use.

Improvements in voter data and preferences information, and computer software which could result in making redistricting fairer and more genuinely competitive are used instead for evil — to lock up districts for one side. Besides being just unfair, gerrymandering sharply limits competitive elections. Current GOP candidate for Lieutenant Governor and an advocate for reform, Jill Vogel, said it makes many "elections irrelevant." In a recent Virginia House of Delegates election for all 100 seats, 34 Republicans ran unopposed as did 24 Democrats and all but a handful of the rest of the "races" were won by prohibitive margins.

With the deck so stacked, party primaries determine the winners in all but a handful of Senate and

House seats. In Virginia and many other states, turnout for party primaries is typically 5 percent or less of those eligible to vote — and those who do vote tend to be the hard core, more extreme party faithful.

In sum, the results of gerrymandering are:

- 1) Noncompetitive elections;
- 2) Low voter participation, well below half the eligible electorate. (Note: money and a perception that it determines outcomes also con-

tributes.); and

3) hardcore, often more extreme candidates elected, folks who find it difficult to compromise with the other party, thus contributing to the dysfunction we see in Washington and Richmond.

There is hope for change on the horizon, however. A coalition of citizens called OneVirginia2021 is working hard all over Virginia to pave the way for the constitutional amendment necessary to reform gerrymandering. Effective reform would take control out of the hands of conflicted politicians and give it instead to qualified, nonpartisan technocrats. Also, there is a bit of a groundswell even among politicians, including many current officeholders, now speaking up for reform. They see a FEDUPNESS meter about to explode.

OneVirginia2021 believes there is, in fact, a majority for reform in the state senate, and growing interest in the House. More Republican converts are needed in the House. Both candidates for Lieutenant Governor support reform. Unfortunately, to date only one of two major party candidates for Governor is on board for change.

While OneVirginia has a lot of volunteers, they need more to lobby the House of Delegates and State Senate to support a constitutional amendment which must be approved by two sessions of the General Assembly to achieve redistricting based on the 2020 census.

Go to www.OneVirginia2021.org to learn more and to get involved. With your help and mine, the coalition can get it done now — not in 2030. To get there, we'll have to shame some more politicians to do the right thing.

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FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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ONGOING

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

Herndon Farm Market, Thursdays through Nov. 9, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., by the Red Caboose. SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program.

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

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com.

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

THROUGH OCT. 1

"Disgraced" on Stage. Various times at Next Stop Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Call 703-481-5930 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org/ for more.

THROUGH NOV. 18

Artists Exhibit. 6:30 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Artist Sue Wrbican, bringing her most recent photographic series inspired by the landscape paintings of American Surrealist Kay Sage (1898-1963). Free. Call 571-267-5000 or visit restonarts.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. at Bow Tie Cinemas in Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Reston Association presents the feature film, "The Circle." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information at Ashleigh@reston.org, 703-435-6530, or reston.org.

Used Books and Media Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Friends night, sale runs through Sept. 27. Prices start at \$.50. Visit www.restonlibraryfriends.com for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

Wishing Day. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. in Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St., Reston. Charity event with Cornerstones. Email info@scrawlbooks.com, call 703-966-2111, or visit www.scrawlbooks.com for more.

Lunch Bench Thursdays. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. BYO lunch and see different entertainment in the Pavilion at Fountain Square each week. Rain or shine. Visit restontowncenter.com for more.

Fashion Tip Thursdays. 5:30 and

Fall Celebrations Need Oompah

Music of Alte Kumpel captures the season.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

A staple at many Oktoberfest celebrations are Oompah musicians dressed in lederhosen, Bavarian shorts that go to the knee and are held up with a pair of suspenders. Throw on a pair of hiking boots, a button-up shirt and a feathery pocket decoration, and voila — an instant oompah musician that evokes beer, dancing and fall fun.

David Erickson, a headliner in the Alte Kumpel band, knows the magic of lederhosen. "I'd like to think the band gets everyone in the mood, they like the way we look," Erickson said, and knows the picture with the oompah guy is a big hit. "People gravitate towards it this time of year," he added.

Fairfax-based Alte Kumpel is loosely defined as an "oompah band." It includes trumpet, clarinet, flugelhorn, euphonium, a tuba, an accordion and a drum.

Depending on the show, the number of musicians on the stage varies, but it's always a good time. "Fun, beer drinking, and eating, what's not to like?" Erickson said. He graduated from Oakton High School and the rest of the band is from various locations in Northern Virginia.

The band always opens up with an Austrian March tune, but the Beer Barrell Polka is their big



Alte Kumpel is comprised of local musicians.

hit. "Fits the theme of Oktoberfest," he said. It's always spelled with a "K," too, makes it more exotic.

The bratwurst, the sauerkraut, the radicchio salad and the Black Forest ham are all part of a typical fall fest menu.

Every weekend in September and October, Alte Kumpel is booked up. "I've gotten more inquiries than I can handle, there's only so many Saturdays," he said.

The lederhosen are a must though, even if an authentic leather pair can cost from \$500-1,000. "We're authentically dressed, the real stuff," Erickson said. For the women, it's the dirndl, which might consist of a bodice, a low-cut blouse with short puff sleeves, full skirt and apron.

Those costumes are popular, according to The American Backstage Company, a costume rental shop in Alexandria. "In September and October every year, I'm completely booked up," the manager said.

7:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. This week, Formal Velvet. Call 571-526-4185 or visit restontowncenter.scoutandmollys.com.

SEPT. 28-OCT. 1

Used Book and Media Sale. Various times at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Sept. 27 is Friend's Night, join at the door. Visit restonlibraryfriends.com for details.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

Northern Virginia Kidney Walk. noon at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Fundraiser for the National Kidney Foundation. Visit kidneywalk.org for more.

Quetzel in Concert. 3 p.m. at CenterStage. Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston. East Side musicians committed to continuing the legacy of 70-plus years of Chicano Rock. \$20 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. Call 877-775-3462 for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 2

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Every Monday in October

free fitness classes in the Pavilion presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. Visit crunchreston.com or call 571-267-5000 for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 4

Live More Block Party. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Dulles Area Transit Authority sponsored show on how to live more by making a better commuting choice. Enjoy exhibits, games, and demonstrations, plus entertainment, giveaways. Free. Call 571-267-5000 or visit livemore.us for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Flavors of Fall. noon-11 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. By the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, autumn brews, food from area restaurants and live entertainment. Free admission; purchase tickets for food and beverages. Visit restonflavors.com for more.

Mucca Pazza in Concert. 3 p.m. at CenterStage. Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston. Mucca Pazza has appeared on Late Night with Conan O'Brien and NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts. \$20 Reston/\$30

Non-Reston. Call 877-775-3462 for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 8

Reston Pumpkin 5K. 8:15 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Halloween costumes welcome. Visit restonflavors.com/reston-pumpkin-5k for more.

Meet the Artists Reception. 2-4 p.m. at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. "Stolen Moments" exhibit by the League of Reston Artists' runs from Oct. 2-30. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 9

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Every Monday in October free fitness classes in the Pavilion presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. Visit crunchreston.com or call 571-267-5000 for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

Finances Lecture. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Rock Your Runway: Financial Fitness For

Women. Financial advisor, Monica Mason, will present this program for women on how to get and stay financially fit. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Adult Coloring Session. 7 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. "Color Me Happy," release the inner artist. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

Light the Night Walk. 5 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Celebrate and commemorate lives touched by cancer. Visit lightthenight.org/nca or call 703-399-2941 for more.

DEADLINE OCT. 13

Herndon Good Neighbor. Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2017 award for a neighbor that's gone above and beyond. Call 703/435-6800 X2084 or e-mail information@herndon-va.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

16th Annual Reston Home Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring six private homes in throughout Reston. Tickets: before Oct. 7, \$25; Oct. 7-14 and online \$30. Group discounts. Tickets available at Reston Museum, Appalachian Spring. GRACE, Chesapeake Chocolates and The Wine Cabinet at North Point. Call 703-709-7700 or visit restonmuseum.org.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local author and paranormal investigator Rob Gutro will present his "Double Murder Ghost Investigation" and talk about his book, "Lessons Learned From the Dead." Adults, teens. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Artschool Lecture. 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. "So You Want to Go to Art School?" Free. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242 for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 16

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Every Monday in October free fitness classes in the Pavilion presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. Visit crunchreston.com or call 571-267-5000 for more.

Jewelry Making Workshop. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Tania Ebrahimian will teach the basics of jewelry-making and participants will create an original piece in this hands-on workshop. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Photography Exhibit. 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts of all skill levels to attend meetings on the third Monday of the month. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 19

Third Thursdays Art Crawl. 6 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. ArtSpace exhibits art throughout Herndon. Free. Go to

FALL FAVORITES



Farm Harvest Days

Oct. 13-15 is Farm Harvest Days at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Carnival starts Friday night, then watch the cider press in action, milk a goat, shell corn, peel apples, meet the farm animals and see traditional farm demonstrations. Free but ride tickets are \$1 each or 24 for \$20. call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

SEPT 29-NOV. 7

The Temple Hall Corn Maize and Fall Festival. Hours vary at 15855 Limestone School Road, Leesburg. 20-acre corn maize, pig races, pumpkin blasters, paint ball, hay fort and tunnel, cow train and animals. Visit www.novaparks.com/events/temple-hall-fall-festival for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Flavors of Fall. noon-11 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. By the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, autumn brews, food from area restaurants and live entertainment. Free admission; purchase tickets for food and beverages. Visit restonflavors.com for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 8

Reston Pumpkin 5K. 8:15 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Halloween costumes welcome. Visit www.restonarts.org for more.

restonflavors.com/reston-pumpkin-5k.

OCT. 13-15

Farm Harvest Days at Frying Pan Farm Park. 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Carnival starts Friday night, then watch the cider press in action, milk a goat, shell corn, peel apples, meet the farm animals and see traditional farm demonstrations. Free but ride tickets are \$1 each or 24 for \$20. call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

FRIDAY/OCT. 27

Boo-Stravaganza. 6-7 p.m. or 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. celebrate the Halloween season with this variety event at the farm. Attendees enjoy a variety of themed games, dare to enter the slightly-spooky BOO barn, and take a wagon ride. Finish the evening with a small treat bag. \$10/child. call 703-437-9101 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/>.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Reston Movie Series. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 1967 suspense film where a recently blinded woman is terrorized by a trio of thugs while they search for a valuable doll they believe is in her apartment. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.
Photo Transfer Workshop. 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. \$45/\$55. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242 for more.

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1

ValeArts Fall Art Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. The nine artists of ValeArts will present "Transformations," an exhibit of more than 150 works of local art. Call 703-860-1888 for more.

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CALENDAR

www.artspaceherndon.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

Great Decisions Discussion. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The topic for this month is "Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan." Discussion materials will be available at the Info Desk. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Natural Dye Workshop. 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. \$45/\$55. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

OCT. 26-29

Washington West Film Festival. Various times at Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Variety of independent films. Visit wwfilmfest.com for more.

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Community Fired Up To Oppose Lift in Reston Density Cap

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning wants to amend the zoning ordinance for Reston, but it has been met with resistance from community members ever since it was proposed in May.

The proposed amendment would alter the zoning regulations by changing the density cap in Reston for areas that are zoned Planned Residential Community (PRC) District. The current cap for these areas, which the majority of Reston is zoned, is set to an average of 13 people per acre. The Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning is recommending raising the cap to an average of 16 people per acre.

The amendment would also increase the maximum number of dwelling units per acre for PRC zoned land. The maximum number is currently 50 dwelling units per acre.

Government officials were met with significant pushback from Restonians during the original three community meetings about the amendment earlier this summer on May 3 and May 15 at the North County Governmental Center and May 24 at Lake Anne Elementary School.

The latest act of resistance from community members was a meeting of the minds behind the resistance: The Reston 20/20 Committee, Rescue Reston, Reclaim Reston, the Reston Citizens Association and the Reston Association.

THE FORUM WAS HELD at the Reston Association's Conference Center on Wednesday night, Sept. 20, where leaders of the groups made presentations to a standing-room-only crowd about why they should join in opposing the amendment.

"The best way probably to describe [the May community meetings] would be spirited, if that's fair," Sherri Hebert, Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District director and president of the RA Board, said at the meeting. "They were maybe a little unproductive, that we really didn't get as a community what we needed out of that," she added.

She then explained to the crowd that she and the RA asked Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, who represents the Hunter Mill District, for a fourth community meeting to discuss the amendment further.

"We are not against development — at all," she said. "Development is important, but what we are for is a balanced and well-planned approach to development is I think what we're all trying to get to."

Deputy Zoning Administrator Cathy Belgin and her colleagues at the planning and zoning department are pushing for the amendment, saying it is required to implement Reston's comprehensive plan.

The Reston Master Plan Special Study began in 2009 and concluded when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted it on June 2, 2015. The document updated Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan to integrate changes to Reston, includ-

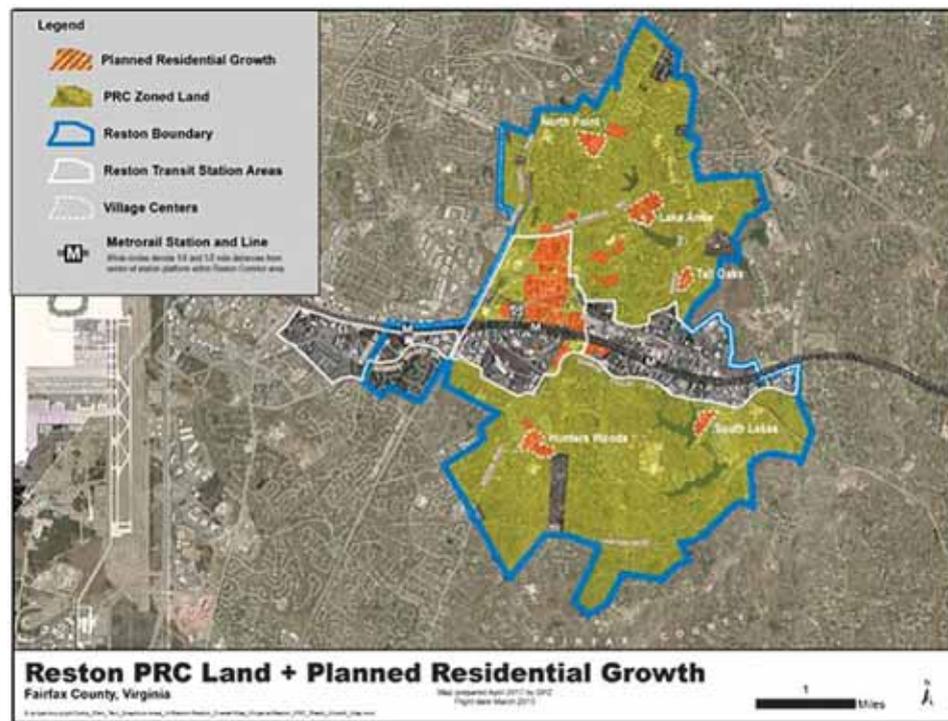


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
After much concern from the community, the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning updated the map to show where the planned high-density areas of the PRC District areas are, shown in red within the yellow-green on this map.



Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, who represents the Hunter Mill District, raised her hand in an effort to stop the booing after she announced that the meeting had to disband for exceeding capacity numbers for the cafeteria as Fred Selden, the director of the county's Department of Planning and Zoning, looks on.

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



Dennis Hays, president of the Reston Citizens Association, commanded the microphone to speak to the crowd as it was disbanding on Monday night: "What we hoped for and what I think we achieved is that we wanted to send a message that the citizenry of Reston is concerned and involved in these issues; that there are answers that we feel we need to have; and we need to go forward not to do anything that is going to destroy the character and the vibrancy of this great community."

ing residential neighborhoods, Village Centers, commercial areas and the Reston Transit Station Areas (TSAs).

But leaders of the citizen groups don't like the county's reasoning.

"Why are we having this discussion about the PRC?" Dennis Hays, president of the Reston Citizens Association, questioned the audience during the meeting. "Because the comprehensive plan says so," he answered. "That was the one reason that was given for everything ... it's in the comprehensive plan and therefore we need to follow through on it."

The county estimates that the population of Reston's PRC District zoned land is currently 74,192. The county also estimates that it is at 11.88 people per acre. Under the 13 people per acre average maximum, the population could grow to 81,195. Lifting the cap to 16 people per acre, as county planning and zoning staff encourage, would allow the population of PRC District zoned land to grow to 99,932.

However, Terry Maynard, co-chair of the Reston 20/20 Committee, thinks these calculations are off because the county's calculations exclude affordable and workforce dwelling units. Instead, Maynard alleges that the approval of the amendment could potentially allow a population of up to 139,906 in Reston's PRC District.

The leaders in the room were also concerned about traffic congestion and infrastructure to support a growing density that the amendment would allow.

"Fairfax County is determined to meet its fiscal needs at the expense and the wellbeing and the property values of every person in this room, wherever you live in Reston," Bruce Ramo of Reclaim Reston said during the meeting.

"There is no urgent need to change Reston zoning now," he added. "The county's population projections, if the zoning is changed, is underestimated and that development that would be facilitated by the zoning changes would far outpace infrastructure."

He made a call for action to the crowd to challenge assumptions and ask hard questions at the next community meeting.

"I urge all of you: Attend the meeting with the county on Sept. 25 and remember what you learned tonight," he said. "Ask why zoning changes are needed well in advance of definitive plans for roads, overpasses, schools and recreation facilities to handle the growth. Ask where and when the parks and schools will be built. Ask what is the oversight mechanism to assure Restonians that money promised by developers in their proffers will directly benefit Reston."

Those in opposition were also encouraged to wear yellow to show a unified presence of resistance.

HUDGINS is well aware of the challenge she and the county are facing in introducing the proposal to the community.

"I realize that there's a really big challenge in terms of people looking at change that's occurring today and we have to be respect

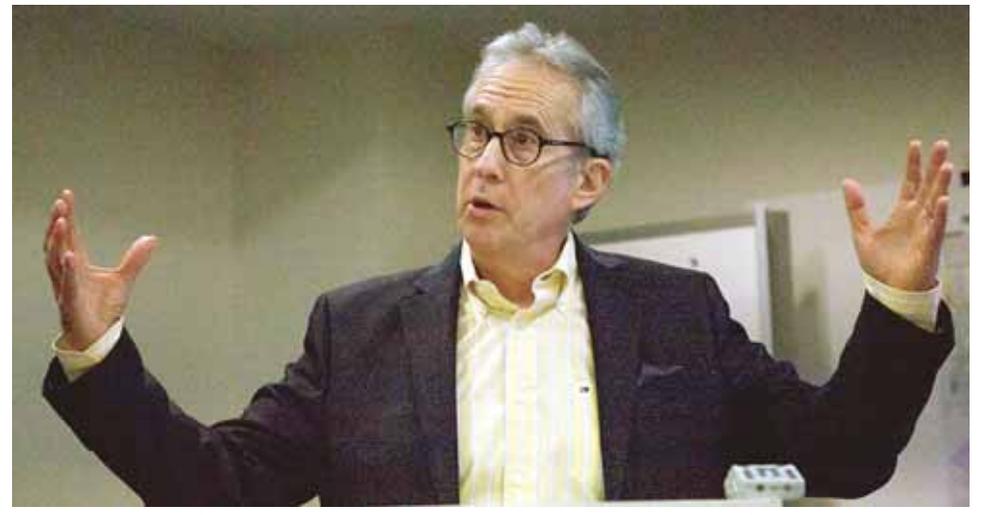
SEE CROWD SIZE, PAGE 9

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PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

A woman stood up and pressed Supervisor Catherine Hudgins to comment on whether she could “honestly say” that the amendment was not a “done deal.” “It’s not a done deal, no,” Hudgins said in response. “If it was a done deal, we could have stopped long ago. No, that’s not the issue. We’re back here to continue to learn from you.”



Bruce Ramo of Reclaim Reston addressed people at the forum: “Ask why zoning changes are needed well in advance of definitive plans for roads, overpasses, schools and recreation facilities to handle the growth. Ask where and when the parks and schools will be built. Ask what is the oversight mechanism to assure Restonians that money promised by developers in their proffers will directly benefit Reston.”

Crowd Size Forces Meeting Cancellation

FROM PAGE 8

ful of that,” Hudgins said. “I understand as they look at the proposal, they’re seeing it through the lens that they have to look at it.”

But she maintains that she is open minded.

“I always leave my mind open as much as I can,” she said. “I don’t go in with an absolute,” she added.

She also said she is aware of the growing opposition to the proposal, but wants another chance to discuss the reasoning behind the amendment.

“There has been a lot of opposition,” she admitted. “We need to understand the opposition and make sure the opposition is clear as to what’s trying to occur. We’re talking about the change in the comprehensive plan; a plan that has already been changed.”

The opposition’s disapproval of pointing to the comprehensive plan as reasoning does not phase her.

“If you like it and it’s in the comprehensive plan, it’s OK guidance,” she said. “If you don’t like it and it’s in the comprehensive plan, then it’s not OK.”

She knows there have been a lot of questions and concern over infrastructure.

“Yes, infrastructure in Virginia doesn’t come as quickly as we like, but it does come,” she said.

She pinned the current outcry on current congestion levels.

“I think there is a fear that because there is congestion, it will always be congested,” she said. “There may be a level of congestion, but we think we can relieve the level of congestion.”

She said relief will come when the

county’s investment in the Silver Line of the metrorail comes to fruition, but she also said there are roadway improvements that are in the works.

A \$2.2 billion Reston Transportation Funding Plan that was approved this year will construct roadway improvements, intersection improvements and new roadways in the Reston TSA road network to improve connectivity to, from and around the transit stations.

There are also ambitious crossings for the Dulles Toll Road: The Soapstone Connector, a four-lane bridge across the Dulles Toll Road from Sunset Hills to Sunrise Valley Drive approximately at Soapstone Drive; South Lakes Connector, a four-lane bridge across the Dulles Toll Road from Sunset Hills Road to Sunrise Valley Drive approximately at South Lakes Drive; and a Town Center Underpass, a four-lane tunnel from Town Center Parkway and Sunset Hills Road to Sunrise Valley Drive west of Edmund Halley Drive.

“The additional crosses that take you north to south are very critical,” she said.

So far, progress has been made on one of the projects. A public hearing about the environmental assessment for the Soapstone Connector is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Dogwood Elementary School.

Developers will also be responsible for contributing to improvements.

“As these applications come in, they have to make their contributions for the infrastructure needs of the future, as well as what they are impacting immediately,” she said. “There are internal roads they must commit to and build, and they also have to contribute to these larger infrastructure pieces.”

With the proposed development and density increase, Restonians are concerned about maintaining green and open spaces. Hudgins maintains that accounting for these spaces are also required by developers.

“When you ask for this density, you have to be able to answer that you have to accommodate it with these amenities,” she said.

What she wants her constituents to know is that she values Reston and lives there too.

“I try to be as much of a keeper of Bob Simon’s plan as I can be,” she said.

She says there is an anticipated shift in population, but only for designated areas: Lake Anne, Town Center North, and the South Lakes, Hunter Woods, Northpoint and Tall Oaks village centers.

Time will tell if opponents sway her vote when the proposal is brought before the board. The amendment is scheduled to be presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for authorization in November; Planning Commission public hearing in December; and Board hearing in January 2018.

THE COUNTY’S FOURTH community meeting to discuss the contentious zoning amendment was halted as hundreds gathered to hear from Supervisor Hudgins and the county’s department of planning and zoning on Monday night, Sept. 25. The culprit: Crowd size.

The meeting was to begin at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Lake Anne Elementary School, but the room quickly became filled to standing room only and then some.

“We are going to simply try ... We’ll have to dismiss tonight; find another location,” Hudgins said.

Her hesitation was apt, as the crowd broke out in uproarious booing and shouting while holding up red cards to visually express their irritation.

“Those are really nice cards and they really are impressive, but it is a safety issue and a code violation,” she said before being cut off by more booing.

“May I ask if you could kindly not shout out,” she replied. “We want to communicate and we’ll try and find a solution.”

The capacity in the cafeteria set by the Fire Marshal Code is 210 people with tables and chairs and 450 people with only chairs or standing. Tables and chairs were set up.

There was a total of 313 people who signed into the meeting on sheets provided at the door, but there were more people waiting outside who couldn’t get in. More people also avoided the lines to sign in, which made the crowd closer to 400 or 500 in size.

There was some angst in the room because people thought the county would move forward on the proposal without letting them voice their concerns, but Hudgins reassured them that they would have an opportunity.

“We are not moving anything in terms of approval of this action based on this,” she told the crowd. “We were to hear your input and our dates are tentatively set in November. We will reschedule or not schedule the authorization until we’ve had this meeting. We’ll get a facility that we can accommodate you.”

The crowd refused to disband and a woman stood up and pressed the supervisor to comment on whether she could “honestly say” that the amendment was not a “done deal.”

Nomination Opens for Best of Reston Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2018 Cornerstones of Our Community – Best of Reston Awards. Completed nomination forms are due Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 by 5 p.m. Awardees will be selected for working selflessly without consideration of recognition to improve communities served by Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. Nomination applications can be found at

www.cornerstonesva.org/BOR. Finalist selections and notifications will be completed by early January 2018.

New this year: The traditional category structure of the awards has been eliminated. Rather than recognizing finalists as leaders in “Large Business,” “Small Business,” “Civic-Community Organization,” “Individual” or “Family Service” categories as in the past, this year’s finalists will

be recognized collectively as “Best of Reston Finalists.” This approach enables consideration of the merits and diversity of community service, volunteerism, and/or philanthropy, whether demonstrating an immediate impact or sustained over a period of time, without the restrictions of being defined by a category.

The process of recognizing finalists as well as honorees, which was introduced last year, will continue for 2018, affirming the principles of Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of

Commerce to engage others, promote corporate social responsibility and the many fine people, businesses and organizations involved in “giving back” in greater Reston/Dulles corridor.

The list of Best of Reston Honorees from 1992-2017 can be viewed at www.cornerstonesva.org/best-of-reston-honorees. Questions about the nomination or selection process may be directed to Likitta Crawley at likitta.crawley@cornerstonesva.org or 571-323-9570.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY CORY RUCK/CAPITAL RAIL CONSTRUCTORS

Pedestrian Bridge Over Silver Line Station

Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project crews set the first pedestrian bridge at the Silver Line's Reston Town Center Metrorail Station over the westbound Dulles Access Highway in later September.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Marsden

FROM PAGE 4

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.

Plum

FROM PAGE 4

population of 40,000 grew to 98,000 in 1950 and by 1970 was 454,000. It is now approaching 1.2 million people. Recognized as among the best places

in the country to live and to start a business, we have clearly left behind our humble beginnings. It is worthwhile to remember our history and the 275th anniversary provides many different opportunities (www.fxva.com/275/).

BULLETIN BOARD

FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

Voting Deadline. 5 p.m. This is the last week of voting in the 2017 Preference Poll; voters are encouraged to review all candidate statements. A ballot and instructions for online, mail or walk-in voting are mailed to all Small District 5 residential and

commercial addresses. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/about-us/board-of-governors/2017-preference-poll or call 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Reston Community Yard Sale. 8:30

a.m. at 1900 Campus Commons Drive (corner of Sunrise Valley Drive and Wiehle Avenue). 85 families will be selling a variety of items for a new home or a college dorm. Call 703-435-6577 for more.

Debate

FROM PAGE 3

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 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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Ought To Ship



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't want to praise the Lord too much for providing me with such a trivial and mundane benefit but, I sure am grateful when my 112 pounds of cat litter arrives/is delivered to my front porch, mere feet away from our cats' litter boxes. "Auto Ship," baby. No more am I lugging 28 to 44 pound boxes of cat litter into our five-indoor-cat household from the local supermarket and/or pet superstore. I don't want to plagiarize a television "spokesthing" from my youth so I'll give "Speedy" from Alka Seltzer proper attribution when I write as enthusiastically as I can: "Oh, what a relief it is!"

The litter is my second auto-ship of substance; having made an earlier/similar commitment to 16 pound bags of dry cat food. I do get some fancy, multi-vitamins auto-delivered and my wife, Dina, as well receives special eye vitamins in the mail, but I thought that was the only way to purchase them, given that the manufacturers were out of town so I never considered them an auto-type ship. Previously, I had always resisted inquiring about getting products delivered from a national company when they are available locally. My thinking had been that since I'm home during the day, and regularly in and out doing errands at many of the stores that sell this merchandise, why ship it when I can shop it? It seemed redundant.

Now however, given the pleasure I felt when I saw that litter sitting on the porch without my having had to life one finger; well, a few fingers initially when I "keystroked" my way through this company's online registration, the light has come on. Moreover, given the neuropathy I have in my feet, I'm tired of walking around those giant warehouse stores. Sure, the local proximity and availability is helpful but the bigger the buyer, the more effort the unloading/restocking is required at home. Perhaps I've simply come to a realization, and not necessarily an accommodation to my age, that less effort equals more overall value. And if in addition to less effort, I can buy products at equal or even lower cost than doing so locally, than I am sittin' pretty in high cotton, if I may double-down on the benefit?

Not that I'm overworked and underpaid for the household duties I perform but, I'd rather be under worked and overpaid, if you catch my drift? And given certain realities to the many tasks now performed by hand, it's up to me to reinvent the wheel, so to speak. And so, I'm starting to consider very seriously, ordering more stuff this way, especially bulky/weighty stuff and to let my fingers do the clicking rather than my arms and legs doing the walking and carrying. Let commercial/corporate America do the driving and delivering. I don't have to prove my shopping mettle anymore. I'm ready to sit back and let the boxes do my talking.

I'm not quite ready to order food/perishable however. I feel a certain sense of calm and serenity wandering down supermarket aisles taking mental inventory of what's present and what's not — and what's new and what everything costs. Not that I try many things as anybody who knows me knows, but occasionally, Entenmann's or Hostess or Nabisco will surprise me with a new item and thus will have made the visit all the more sweeter. I wonder if I'll have the same sensation perusing and clicking my way through a site that so far has been unseen — by my eyes, anyway. I guess it can't hurt to explore a bit. I mean, it's not exactly the dark web. (Is it?) Nor do I expect to use bit coins or have to create an avatar for myself. Nevertheless, the process does seem a little daunting; changing habits that have become habitual, and routines which have become routine. Seems a bit like turning an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea. They don't turn on a dime and neither do I. Still, I'm intrigued by the possibilities, and besides, I'm nearly out of laundry detergent.

Perhaps a test is in the offing. I don't think I'm quite ready to join a club/pay a membership fee, but I am open to investigating. Time will tell I suppose, as will my first bill.

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



PHOTOS BY ROBERT HEALY/THE CONNECTION

Participants hold up different colored flowers to represent the diverse reasons for walking.



Encompass Home Health members, Kevin Foos, Nancy Holt, Helena Fadool, Carley Palmucci, Brittany Borgias, Iaesha Carol, and Fred Wixson gather at Reston Town Center.

Walking Against Alzheimer's at Reston Town Center

The Alzheimer's Walk in Reston raises more than \$267,000.

BY ROBERT HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Nothing brings together support for Alzheimer's like a two-mile stroll through Reston Town Center. Alzheimer's Walks gather family members, caregivers, friends and colleagues to rally around finding a cure for this devastating disease.

This year the Alzheimer's Walk in Reston raised more than \$267,000 to go towards support, care and research for the disease.

Sherry Gryder was the leading single-fundraiser of the event. Her mother and grandmother were both afflicted with the disease and she now walks for them. By hosting events at restaurants like Pinkey and Pepe's Grape Escape and Joe's Crab Shack she was able to raise \$15,000. Vicky Krause, her sister, was also there and shared that the two competed against each other to push each other to raise more money.

The Alzheimer's Walk is valuable because it brings together people who understand how much the disease affects Americans. Nearly one-third of the population over 65 has some form of dementia. One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. The disease can not only damage relationships with family and friends but destroy a retiree's hard-earned savings.

Jocelyn Hurradura, a caregiver at Sunrise Senior Living, said she sees the disease first hand in nearly 75 percent of her patients. Hurradura is one of 15 million caregivers that play a critical role in assist-

ing people living with Alzheimer's.

Each year the event hopes to raise enough money to eventually find a cure. Research and scientific organizations benefit from money raised at Walks.

One such organization is Integrated Neurology Systems. Lisa Wegner, a representative of INS, explained how their study focuses on slowing early onset Alzheimer's by isolating the protein Tau.

One of the recurring emblems of the Alzheimer's Walks is the distribution of the Promise Garden Flowers. Each participant is instructed to carry a certain color flower on their walk, to signify the diverse reasons for why they walk. The blue flower represents someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. The purple flower represents someone who has lost a loved one with the disease. Yellow shows someone who is currently supporting or caring for someone with Alzheimer's. Orange is for everyone who supports the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

With the support of loved ones and caregivers Alzheimer's can be limited, which is hope for future generations dealing with this disease.



The largest fundraiser of the Alzheimer's Walk Sherry Gryder stands among the crowd having raised more than \$15,000.



Jocelyn Hurradura, a Sunrise Senior Living caregiver, stands in front of the sponsors for the Alzheimer's Walk.



A look at the many area residents that came together to make Alzheimer's Walk possible.



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