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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10 FOLLOW ON TWITTER: @BURKECONNECTION

# Burke CONNECTION



Carla Alayon and Pedro Melendez of Burke roast marshmallows during the Lake Accotink Park's Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 20.

## Celebrating Fall At Lake Accotink Park

NEWS, PAGE 10

Creating Friendships  
Across the Ocean

NEWS, PAGE 9

Herring Calls for  
Criminal Justice Reform

NEWS, PAGE 3

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.  
2. not appreciated or understood.  
3. no longer owned or known



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# Herring Calls for Criminal Justice Reform at Summit

## Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement gather.

ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**A**ttorney General Mark Herring announced his support and latest efforts to secure reforms to the Commonwealth's cash bail system before 1,400 people gathered at Fairfax High School on Sunday, Oct. 21, for the annual summit of VOICE – Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement.

At the event, Herring gave the attendees a preview of a statement released on Monday, Oct. 22, announcing the letter and legal memo he had submitted to the Virginia State Crime Commission outlining potential policy and constitutional concerns with the state's current system, and providing principles for consideration toward reform that would "ensure public safety without unnecessarily jailing low-income Virginians."

The commission is currently studying Virginia's pre-trial process, including the cash bail system, and is scheduled to make their presentation to lawmakers on Nov. 18.

While Herring cannot set bail policy in Virginia, as attorney general he wields influence on all criminal justice issues. In his letter, addressed to Commission Chair state Sen. Mark Obenshain, Herring points out several concerns, asking that they be given full attention by the commission and offering to assist the commission and the legislature in their efforts.

In reviewing the current cash bail system, referring to numerous studies, and comparing the state of the system in Virginia to other jurisdictions and to federal law, Herring sees potential violations of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1 of the Virginia Constitution that both prohibit "excessive bail."

In his statement, Herring writes that Virginia's current system "too often determines who has money, not who is dangerous, and we can't have a justice system that determines fairness and freedom based on wealth and means ... I want to keep dangerous people in jail, I want people to show up for court ... it doesn't make sense, nor does it make our communities safer, to make a low-risk, non-violent person sit in jail, while more violent or dangerous people can go free because of their wealth."

In 2005, Virginia took the nation-wide lead by instituting the Virginia Pretrial Assessment Instrument (VPRAI) to help calculate a defendant's likelihood of failure to appear and level of danger to the society, but ultimately pretrial release is set by a judicial officer, usually a magistrate, and according to a 2017 study the magistrates typically do not receive any information from pretrial service agencies that could better inform their decision.

Herring expressed concern that under Virginia law judicial officers are granted broad discretion to set the term under which



Expecting about 1,200 to attend, about 1,400 area citizens turned up for the 2018 VOICE summit.



VOICE members take to the stage at the 2018 summit with pledge posters, showing how many of their group had signed up to help Get Out the Vote and to attend the next Legislative session in Richmond. "We will have at least 10 people per day calling for action in Richmond," said VOICE leadership, who also noted that the the GOTV goal of 450 volunteers had already been exceeded by 150 persons.

**"It's one more step in the right direction."**

— Marjorie Green, a lay leader at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Arlington and a spokesperson for VOICE

defendants can obtain pretrial release.

"Alternatives to cash bail bonds are rarely used. Therefore, many people who are eligible for [pretrial release] face incarceration while awaiting trial merely because they cannot afford to pay the bond."

The negative impacts of unnecessary incarceration are widespread. Low-risk, non-violent defendants who must remain in jail pending trial often lose their jobs, their homes, their cars, and even their families, as a result. "This is not the answer," said Herring. "Continuing on this path only increases the problems we face."

Studies support his assertions. A 2016 report by the Prison Policy Initiative found that Virginia's pretrial detainees increased from less than 3,000 in 1978, to almost 9,000 in 2013. By 2015, Virginia's incarceration rate was approximately 150 per-



Attorney General Mark Herring announces his support and latest efforts to reform the cash bail system in Virginia before the attendees to the 2018 VOICE – Virginians for Organized Interfaith Community Engagement – summit.

cent of the national average.

In his arguments for reform, Herring noted that last year about 28,000 Virginians were released under pretrial supervision – and 94 percent of them showed up for their court appearance and stayed out of trouble.

Holding the non-violent, low-risk accused because they cannot pay bail also has a negative effect on the state's economy.

Herring reports that it costs about \$3 a day to maintain someone on pretrial services versus about \$85 per day if they remain in jail. "So if we make smart reforms we could be talking about millions in savings while still meeting our public safety goals."

Treating defendants differently depending on their ability to afford bail may also raise equal protection concerns in violation of several federal and state laws and statutes. Herring also questions the frequent absence of counsel or representation from the prosecution at many bail hearings, a situation that may violate the Sixth Amendment, upheld in a case before the United States Supreme Court in 2008, that makes it a right to counsel when a person has been placed under arrest and makes an initial appearance before a magistrate for the determination on probable cause and the setting of bail. It is not clear under Virginia law whether a bail hearing alone constitutes a "critical stage," requiring the presence of counsel for the defendant.

VOICE is a non-partisan coalition of some 55 faith communities and civic organizations from Fairfax County and surrounding areas, Alexandria City, Arlington County and Prince Williams County and neighboring areas. While involved in a variety of community improvement actions, "Restorative Criminal Justice," sits high on the group's target list of initiatives that its membership works to see enacted.

Marjorie Green, a lay leader at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Arlington and a spokesperson for VOICE, praised the announcement of Herring's initiative as a testament to the impact that citizens united can achieve. Green noted in a statement that "this newest effort grew out of conversations between VOICE and the attorney general in recent months." VOICE reported the results of listening sessions held with more than 7,000 residents of Northern Virginia about their chief concerns. "It's one more step in the right direction."

Rev. Keith Savage, pastor at First Baptist Church in Manassas and a member of VOICE's key leadership team, added "Pure and simple, cash bail is a tax on being poor ... we spend millions warehousing people in jail for the sole reason that they cannot afford bail ... yet our community was not made any safer."

VOICE membership committed to actions to "hold our lawmakers to account" on this and other civic issues.

The full contents of Herring's letter and the media release providing additional background information is available on the Attorney General's website [www.oag.state.va.us](http://www.oag.state.va.us).

## Helping Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence

Step Up 4 Kids seeks to break the cycle of abuse and address the needs of children.

BY SUPERVISOR  
JOHN C. COOK  
R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT



**D**omestic Violence harms everyone in a family, directly and indirectly. When children are exposed to domestic violence, the trauma they experience can have damaging effects. That is why the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy, and Coordinating Council is expanding its efforts to serve children who witness this crime in their own homes.

The County's Step Up 4 Kids initiative will work to improve the short-term and long-term outcomes in the lives of children who have witnessed domestic violence by improving the government and community response, enhancing clinical intervention services, and providing opportunities for individual impact.

Nearly 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience severe intimate partner violence in their lifetime. These sobering numbers are followed by the reports that 1 in 4 children witness domestic violence in their homes. It is easy to think that because a child does not see a parent assaulted that they are not aware of the violence. The reality is that children are much more aware of the violence, fear, and manipulation that occurs in an abusive relationship between their parents than we realize.

Following a violent or scary incident, or even days and months after, children may experi-

ence anxiety, fear of their parent being hurt, increased aggression, or symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The long term effects are even more damaging.

Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to experience mental health problems like depression, anxiety, and the increased chance of suicidal ideation, and substance use. Worst of all, these children are much more likely to be involved in abusive relationships. Boys who witnessed domestic violence are 10 times more likely to abuse a partner as an adult, which girls who witnessed it are 6 times more likely to enter an abusive relationship.

Step Up 4 Kids seeks to break the cycle of abuse and address the unique needs of children by engaging individuals, systems, and mental health professionals. This three-pronged approach is only possible with an enhanced response and coordination from government and the community. Step Up 4 Kids will work to improve coordination between Fairfax County Public Schools, County agencies, and nonprofit partners. This will facilitate communication and information sharing among all parties involved in assisting child witnesses and will improve practices across the system. The community will also play an important part in Step Up 4 Kids. The initiative will enact campaigns and programs to teach groups in the community about how children are impacted by domestic violence.

The final, and perhaps most important, piece of the Step Up 4 Kids puzzle is you, the individual. One of the most important messages

of the Step Up 4 Kids Initiative is that you can make the difference in the life a child who has witnessed or experienced domestic violence, regardless of your role in a child's life. You may be a teacher, daycare provider, sports coach, neighbor, extended family member, or friend. You can make a difference by letting a child know it is okay to talk about the scary things that might be happening in their home, you can encourage a child in something they are good at, and remind a child that violence is never their fault or their problem to fix. The Step Up 4 Kids Initiative will work with organizations and community groups across the county to recognize ways they can make a difference for some of our most vulnerable children.

The good news is that while children can be very vulnerable, they can also be incredibly resilient, and their ability to grow in their resiliency is dependent on the adults in their life. The presence of a safe, caring, adult in a child's life, whether a parent, teacher, friend, or coach, is the most significant factor in a child's ability to overcome any type of adversity. And the more adults surround and support a child, the more those chances increase.

If you have questions or concerns about how to help a child or possible survivor you are concerned about, or you are a survivor yourself, please call the Fairfax County 24-Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline at 703-360-7273 to speak to a trained hotline volunteer who can provide support, crisis intervention, and resources for services.

If you would like to learn more about the Step Up 4 Kids Initiative and how you can get involved, please visit [fairfaxcounty.gov](http://fairfaxcounty.gov) and search "Step Up 4 Kids."

## Responding to Climate Change Warnings

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



**L**ast week I wrote about the dire warning of the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change about the more immediate consequences of climate change than had originally been predicted. Avoiding the damages to our planet and to our way of life would require "transforming the world economy at a speed and scale that has no documented precedent," according to the report.

The greatest economies in the world must lead the changes necessary to preserve our planet and the quality of life for our families rather than dismissing or debating its findings. The time for action is now with the report describing a world of worsening food shortages and wildfires and a mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040, a little more than two decades away.

What we have instead are politicians at the highest level of the federal government making promises at political rallies in West Virginia to bring back coal, the greatest offender of cli-

mate change, and in Iowa to increase corn production for ethanol that when added to gasoline may release more carbon from the lands than it saves. Scores of regulations intended to reduce climate change have been rescinded to gain favor of those who see them as interference in their quest to make more bucks or to gain more votes from a political constituency. Absent little or no help on this concern at the federal level for the next couple of years, what can be done in the meantime? At the state level I will be pushing for a strengthening of a commitment by state government to increase its efforts at energy conservation, eliminating any subsidies for coal production, intensive economic development in green jobs for areas previously dependent on coal, a tax on carbon, accelerating the use of renewable energy, and establishing Virginia as a green state in its policies as well as reforestation. There are many reasons to take this immediate action in Virginia if for no other motive than that we stand to be among the first states to lose a significant chunk of our land mass with climate change and sea level rise.

I am pleased that Fairfax County has made a nod in the direction of concern about sea level rise, but there is reason to believe that one of the wealthiest counties in the country can find the will and the resources to do even more.

We have been planting trees, but we need to plant many more. We have been working to get people out of their individual cars, and we must incentivize more people to use cleaner transit. Thanks to School Board Member Pat Hynes for her resolution calling for state and federal action on climate change. It is a beginning, but the locality must budget as a social cost for the county and not for the school district the addition of solar panels on the millions of square feet of roof space on our schools. Also, our school lots should be forested and not lawns. Small actions taken by many can produce significant results. We have our warning. No time for hand wringing. We need to get to work.

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:  
Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St. • Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail: [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com)





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Volunteering at Mental Health Nonprofit**

Volunteers from Regency Centers — Jessica Hayes, Brian Greene, Greg Van Dyke, and Brian Dawson — completed their Day of Service project at mental health nonprofit PRS' Fairfax Recovery Academy Day Program. PRS is a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises. Regency Centers volunteers created a garden with fresh flowers and herbs that clients will use for cooking. Volunteers also landscaped, power-washed, and organized activities with the clients including making bird feeders and decorating mini-pots of herbs for clients to take home.

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# AREA ROUNDUPS

# BULLETIN BOARD

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

## VDOT Hosts Incident Management Open House Nov. 10

Traffic incident management is a coordinated team effort of local, state, federal, and private partners, working around the clock to meet the goal of quick incident clearance and keeping Virginia moving.

To kick off Federal Highway Administration's National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week Nov. 11-17, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host an Incident Management Open House to make equipment, systems, and staff available for residents to see the behind-the-scenes work for this regional effort.

The Open House will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Va.

An outdoor touch-a-truck exhibit will feature a simulated crash scene to help the public see an incident from the

perspective of first responders who work in the roadway every day.

Attendees can watch live demonstrations of patient extrication, towing recovery, drone operations, and tree removal.

An indoor expo will feature booths for VDOT incident management coordinators, public affairs, safety manager, signal operations, Safety Service Patrol, and Transportation Operations Center, as well as Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC), and Transurban.

The event will also feature food trucks and a kids' zone.

For event information, visit

[vdotopenhouse.eventbrite.com](http://vdotopenhouse.eventbrite.com).

Follow VDOT Northern Virginia on Twitter: @vadotnova

### WEDNESDAYS

**Financial Literacy Classes.** 7:30 p.m. At 2751 Prosperity Ave., Suite 310, Fairfax. DiMaVi Realtors will be offering free courses on financial literacy with topics ranging from retirement planning, investment, navigating the mortgage and loan industries, and taxing issues. Call 571-322-1884 to register.

### VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED.

**The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke** needs volunteer drivers for

trips to medical appointments (Monday - Friday) and companion shopping (Tuesday, Friday) within the Fairfax-Burke area and in the South County area (west of Route 1, Alexandria). Office volunteers are also needed to work in the SCFB (Olley Glen) office to schedule rides. Bilingual volunteers (English and Spanish) are needed as drivers and office volunteers. Email Shavaun Wall at [recruiter@scfbva.org](mailto:recruiter@scfbva.org) or call 703-323-4788.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/OCT. 25

**Paintings & Pairings.** 5:30-9 p.m. at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Enjoy paired hors d'oeuvres and wines, a three-course dinner, and auctions and artwork for sale. All proceeds from the event benefit Insight Memory Care Center. \$125. Visit [www.insightmcc.org/](http://www.insightmcc.org/) for more.

**Hitchcocktober: 39 Steps (1935).** 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween. Tickets are \$10. Visit [angelikafilmcenter.com](http://angelikafilmcenter.com).

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 25-28

**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts-Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Mark Twain's timeless classic sweeps us down the mighty Mississippi in this musical adaptation of Huck Finn. Our irreplaceable hero helps his friend Jim escape to freedom while sharing hilarious, suspenseful and heartwarming adventures, all told with unforgettable, classically American music. Professional Artist in Residence, Thomas W. Jones II helps this journey. \$15 for students and seniors, \$30 for adults. Call 703-901-5941 or visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/big-river-the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/big-river-the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn) for more.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 26

**Lorton Workhouse Ceramics Workshop.** 10:30 a.m. at Lorton

## Organ Recital at Historic Pohick Church

There will be a free organ recital by Linda Wilberger Egan, Minister of Music, on Sunday, Oct. 28, at 3 p.m. at the Historic Pohick Church. The recital celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the church's Noack Pipe Organ with 16 stops, 18 ranks, and 948 pipes. Selections will include works by Pachelbel, Buxtehude and Bach, which were composed during the musical Baroque period.

Historic Pohick Church is located at 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton, on U.S. Route 1 between Telegraph Road and Pohick Road. For more information call 703-339-6572 or visit the Pohick Church website at [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Travel to the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center Visit [lortonseniorcenter.org](http://lortonseniorcenter.org) or call 703-550-7195 for more.

**2018 Arts Awards.** Noon-2 p.m. at Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. The Arts Awards bring together the arts community, business community, civic and elected leaders to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, and the private sector for supporting the arts in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church. \$250. Email [bmacroberts@artsfairfax.org](mailto:bmacroberts@artsfairfax.org) or call 571-395-4619.

**Rock the Block: Supervixen.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Family-



friendly free concert series, which features live bands, beer garden, and city restaurant vendor booths. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock) for more.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 26-28

**Madhaunter's Madhouse.** Friday-Saturday, 7-11 p.m.; Sunday, 7-10 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Madhaunter's Madhouse haunted trail of terror returns to the Workhouse for a third year of scares. In 2018, screams will echo across the 55-acre historic Workhouse campus, built on the grounds of the once-abandoned and notorious DC Department of Corrections Lorton

Reformatory. More information, tickets (\$20), and volunteer opportunities are available at [workhousearts.org/madhaunter](http://workhousearts.org/madhaunter).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 27

**ECHO Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-noon. At St. Bernadette Catholic Church in the gym, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Hundreds of items — toys, dishes, collectibles, small electronics, home decorations and fashion accessories will be available. Proceeds go to support ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others.) Visit the website [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).

**Saturday Community Farmers' Market.** Through Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit [www.fairfaxsatdaymarket.com](http://www.fairfaxsatdaymarket.com).

**Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit [www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/](http://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/).

**Both Sides Tour XXI.** 8:15 a.m. Leave from Franconia Museum at the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Elijah White grew up in Maryland and moved to Virginia before the Civil War. He built his famed Thirty-Fifth Battalion, Virginia Cavalry with troops from both sides of the Potomac River. \$100, includes bus, lunch, and a contribution to the Franconia Museum. Bottled water will be provided on the bus. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or [dhakenson@verizon.net](mailto:dhakenson@verizon.net).

**Genealogy in the Digital Age.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At Dunn Loring

Volunteer Fire Station, Oct. 312148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society's Fall Genealogy Fair, "Genealogy in the Digital Age" with James M. Beidler. Plus vendors. Registration online at <https://2018fxgsfallfair.eventbrite.com>. Cost after October 15: FxGS member, \$45, non-member \$55. Visit the website [www.fxgs.org](http://www.fxgs.org)

**Trunk or Treat.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Come out to celebrate the community and Halloween at Trunk or Treat Community Day. Join friends and neighbors for food, music, vendors, moon bounce, trunk or treating, and more. Free. Call 703-278-8605 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services).

**"Real vs Reel: A Closer Look at the Medicine of Mercy Street."** 2 p.m. at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Jake Wynn from the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Md., will explore and compare "real" medical practices from the Civil War versus the medical treatments shown in "Mercy Street," the PBS mini-series. Free. Call 703-591-0560.

**Transforming Lives Gala.** 6:30-11 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Since 1974, Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services has been reducing homelessness and enabling self-sufficiency by providing permanent affordable housing, emergency financial services, budget counseling and case management to working households in Fairfax County. \$175-\$250. Visit [goodhousing.org/gala](http://goodhousing.org/gala) for more.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

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## CALENDAR

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about an  
upcoming event

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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 27-28

**Fall Fun Days.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Whitehall Farms, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Fourth annual Fall Fun Days, featuring a pumpkin patch, corn maze, nature trails, inflatable bounce houses, lawn games, wagon rides, and more. Meet farm animals (like Henry the cow) and learn more about sustainable farming. A farm-to-table lunch option will be available, featuring farm fresh ingredients from Whitehall's farm store. \$12 for adults and children over 3. Visit [www.whitehall.farm](http://www.whitehall.farm) for more.

**Ghost Train.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Take little goblins for a family-friendly ride on the Ghost Train at Burke Lake Park this Halloween season. Also enjoy a moon bounce, carousel and pumpkin painting. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Dress for the occasion with your favorite Halloween costume. \$6 per person age two and older; younger children ride for free. Last ticket sold at 4 p.m. Call 703-323-6600 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/).

### SUNDAY/OCT. 28

**Organ Recital.** 3 p.m. At Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Free organ recital by Linda Wilberger Egan, Minister of Music. The recital celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the church's Noack Pipe Organ with 16 stops, 18 ranks, and 948 pipes. Selections will include works by Pachelbel, Buxtehude and Bach, which were composed during the musical Baroque period. Call 703-339-6572 or visit the Pohick Church website at [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

**Halloween Costume Contest.** 11 a.m. at Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Visit [lortonseniorcenter.org](http://lortonseniorcenter.org) or call 703-550-7195 for more.

**Trunk or Treat.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. There will be free candy and refreshments, and prizes for best decorated vehicle & costumes. Call 703-383-1170, or visit [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

**Hitchcocktober: Psycho (1954).** 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center - Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween. Tickets are \$10. Visit [angelikafilmcenter.com](http://angelikafilmcenter.com).

**Madhaunter's Madhouse.** 7-11 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Madhaunter's Madhouse haunted trail of terror returns to the Workhouse for a third year of scares. In 2018, screams will echo across the 55-acre historic Workhouse campus, built on the grounds of the once-abandoned and notorious DC Department of Corrections Lorton Reformatory. More information, tickets (\$20), and volunteer opportunities are available at [workhousearts.org/madhaunter](http://workhousearts.org/madhaunter).

### THURSDAY/NOV. 1

**"Frequent, Certain, and Regular Elections" A Symposium.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. George Mason wrote in the Virginia Declaration of Rights that representatives of the people should be chosen in "frequent, certain, and

elections." With all of the talk about mid-terms, it's the perfect time to step back and look at the history of elections and voting in America. Cost is \$85 Registration, \$70 for Friends of Gunston Hall. Online Registration is open until 4 p.m. on Oct. 31, registration may be completed at the door after that time. Visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

**Accessibility Workshop.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At 1st Stage Theater, 3007, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean, in Tysons Corner. ARTSFAIRFAX will host a free workshop on accessibility designed to be practical in terms of the barriers people with disabilities face in experiencing the arts, but also inspirational in how some arts organizations are re-framing their approach to these audiences with new programs and services. Participants will hear from the following speakers: Niyati Dhokai, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, George Mason University, College of Visual and Performing Arts; Marit Majeske, Front of House and Community Inclusion Manager, Hylton Center for the Performing Arts; Shanna Sorrells, 1st Stage Accessibility and Education Fellow; and Katrina Clark, Creative Captioning. RSVP to [grants@artsfairfax.org](mailto:grants@artsfairfax.org). Visit [ARTSFAIRFAX.org](http://ARTSFAIRFAX.org).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 2-3

**Wild Horse and Burro Event.** Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. At Meadowood Recreation Area, 10406 Gunston Road, Lorton. Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Northeastern States District will hold a wild horse and burro event providing wild horses and possibly a few yearling and burros. The event will potentially include sale-eligible animals. Purchasers receive immediate ownership of the animal on the day of the event. Call 1-866-4MUSTANGS (1-866-468-7826) or visit [www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov).

**"The Story of Hansel and Gretel."** Friday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. At The Stage at Holy Trinity Church, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Cost is \$10. Delight over this sweet and charming musical adaptation. Sent into the woods, Hansel and Gretel meet up with a number of peculiar characters. Purchase tickets at [bit.ly/oshanselgretel](http://bit.ly/oshanselgretel). Visit the website [www.oakcrest.org](http://www.oakcrest.org).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 3

**Woodson Craft Show.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. At Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Free. W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax will host the 26th Annual Holiday Happenings Craft Show. This show features juried handmade arts and crafts with a diverse selection of: fine arts, jewelry, fiber arts, wood, photography, pottery, giftware, pet accessories, stress relief items and hundreds of holiday collectibles/decorations. There will be approximately 100 exhibitors and admission is free for shoppers. All proceeds benefit the W.T. Woodson Crew Team [www.wtwcrew.org](http://www.wtwcrew.org). Email Lesley Kowalski at [woodsoncraftshow@gmail.com](mailto:woodsoncraftshow@gmail.com).

**Book Event and Author Luncheon.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. This annual event features four authors, lunch and a silent auction is sponsored by Fairfax City AAUW as a scholarship fundraiser for local women returning to college. \$42. Visit [fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net](http://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net) to make reservations by Oct. 27.

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**LONGINES**



# NEWS

## Creating Friendships Across the Ocean

High School Diplomats program brings together American and Japanese students.

BY KHUYEN DINH  
THE CONNECTION

Bringing 40 American students and 40 Japanese students together for a ten-day program, the High School Diplomats Program creates bonds and friendships across the ocean.

The High School Diplomats Program is a scholarship based cultural exchange program available for high school students entering their junior or senior year and is held at Princeton University for ten days. Rachel Nelson, a senior at Robinson Secondary School, attended this intense, cultural experience to create friendships and learn more about the Japanese culture.

"I applied to this international program because I was fascinated by the opportunity to learn about and experience aspects of Japanese culture," said Nelson. "This program provided me with a rich experience through academic, cultural, and social activities that I will never forget."

She describes the participants of the program as a "family" and that the program is frequently referred to as "the best ten days of your life," and concludes that she can personally attest to this statement.



**"Yuya and I": Coordinating T-Shirts, Robinson Secondary Senior Rachel Nelson and her roommate from Japan, Yuya Minami, sport their homemade shirts for the spirit days within the program.**

"If I had to summarize my HSD experience in one word, I would use 'Tomodachi', or 'friend.'" Nelson explains, "This was a commonly used phrase throughout the program and highlights the importance of lasting international relationships formed within our progressive generation."

The United States High School Diplomats Program will be held in late August at Princeton University in 2019. Sophomores and juniors in high school can apply online at [www.highschooldiplomats.com](http://www.highschooldiplomats.com) from Sept. 15, 2018 to Jan. 8, 2018. For more information, contact the American Director, Celine Zapolski, at [celinezapolski@highschooldiplomats.com](mailto:celinezapolski@highschooldiplomats.com) or 571-234-5072.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**"Squad": Before the High School Diplomats Closing Ceremony, Shikoh Hirabayashi, Rachel Nelson, Yuya Minami, and Marco Allen smile reminiscing of their wonderful memories made at the program.**

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## Public Meetings Fall Transportation Meeting

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, as well as Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and the VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment and Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and discuss your ideas and concerns about Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a public comment period, where you can provide comments about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted via email or online at [www.CTB.Virginia.gov](http://www.CTB.Virginia.gov).

Public Meetings\* to be held at the dates, locations and times listed below:

<b>Monday, October 15, 2018</b> at 4 p.m. Culpeper District Office 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	<b>Wednesday, October 17, 2018*</b> at 4 p.m. Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	<b>Monday, October 22, 2018*</b> at 4 p.m. Southwest Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210
<b>Thursday, October 25, 2018*</b> at 2 p.m. (Note: Start time has changed) Holiday Inn - Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	<b>Tuesday, November 13, 2018</b> at 4 p.m. Hampton Roads District Office 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	<b>Thursday, November 15, 2018</b> at 4 p.m. Homewood Suites-Chester 12810 Old Stage Road Chester, VA 23836
<b>Monday, November 19, 2018</b> at 4 p.m. Lynchburg District Complex Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	<b>Wednesday, November 28, 2018</b> at 4 p.m. Fredericksburg District Office Auditorium 86 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405	<b>Thursday, November 29, 2018</b> at 5:30 p.m. NOVA District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

\*These meetings will be held in conjunction with planned I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan meetings. Fall meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning October 15, 2018.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov).

You may send comments on rail, public transportation, and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov).

Comments will be accepted until December 13, 2018.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

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## NEWS



Children search for buried treasures in the sand pit.

# Lake Accotink Park Fall Festival a Hit

About 250-300 people attended the Lake Accotink Park's Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018. Using a Halloween-theme, the day consisted of fun for children, carnival-style games, haunted tractor rides, miniature golf, and carnival-style food.

Lake Accotink is part of the Fairfax County Park Authority.

According to Joshua Smith, Lakefront Park Manager at Lake Accotink Park: "We do this every fall around Halloween — so it's a Halloween-themed event. We open up our mini-golf; we have different carnival-style games the kids participate in. We also do haunted hayrides, which are family-friendly and dog-friendly as well. But it's a great family event that people can come out and just have a great day out at the local park."

He continued: "We're just trying to bring the community in and let them know what we have to offer here at Lake Accotink."

This is kind of the last event that we do for the season. So, we hope to spark interest in what we're going to be doing when the Spring comes back around next year. It's a great fun day."

—STEVE HIBBARD

PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION



Allison Zwirner, 6, and Katie Campillo, 7, of Springfield enjoy cotton candy.



Mila Rumiantsev, 4, of Fairfax shows off her face painting.



Ellie Readman, 4, of Asheville, NC, plays the Spider Web Splat game during Lake Accotink Park's Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018.

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FROM PAGE 6

## SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

**Free Sober Rides.** Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 28, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com). The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 25

**Public Comment Deadline.** The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) announces a 45-day public comment period for its proposed policy and guidelines for transit capital prioritization and urban transit agency strategic plans. The proposed plans are available online at [drpt.virginia.gov/transit/tsdac/public-comment](http://drpt.virginia.gov/transit/tsdac/public-comment). Comments on the plans can be sent to Jen DeBruhl at [DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov) or DRPT, 600 East Main St., Suite 2012, Richmond, VA 23219.

**Gentle Yoga.** 12:30-2 p.m. at Sentara Surgery Specialists Comprehensive Breast Center, 8988 Lorton Station Blvd., Suite 103, Lorton. This yoga protocol is facilitated by Pat Fitzsimmons RN, C-IAYT, E-RYT 500, an instructor specifically trained to work with cancer patients who will adapt traditional yoga practices to meet the physiological and psychological needs of cancer patients. No registration required. It is recommended that participants dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat, towel(s), and water. Visit [www.sentara.com](http://www.sentara.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 27

**Caregiver Bootcamp.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. It can be hard as a busy caregiver to find all the information to best care for a loved one with dementia. Insight offers the Caregiver Bootcamp to share essential caregiving topics, all in one place. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge. Register online at [insightmcc.org](http://insightmcc.org), or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or [lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org](mailto:lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org).

**VolunteerFest.** A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php) for more.

## MONDAY/OCT. 29

**Richmond Highway Widening Public Information Meeting.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mt. Vernon High School Cafeteria & Auditorium (Enter at Door #8), 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road, Alexandria. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host a public information meeting on the Richmond Highway Widening project to provide an update as well as an opportunity for the public to comment on the project. The meeting will include an open house, a formal presentation and a question and answer period. Individual questions will also be addressed during the open house. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Visit [www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond\\_highway.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp) for more.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 30

**Prevent Bullying.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. You Can Help Prevent Bullying: Strategies for Parents. Would you like to know more about how you can help prevent bullying at home and in school? Workshop to learn what is bullying, bullying in a cyber world, bullying vs. harassment, signs to look for and ways to prevent and support. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) to register.

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## Resorting to Radio



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

There I was, Wednesday evening, Oct. 17, around 6:30, sitting on my living room couch, club sandwich in hand, preparing for the League Championship Series game 5 between my Boston Red Sox and the Houston Astros when as I've done a thousand times before, grabbed the remote to turn on the television. Pressing the usual button, I was distressed to see no picture and hear no sound. Having experienced this kind of disappointment numerous times before, I didn't panic yet. I went about the diagnostic process first.

I checked my remote to see if the batteries were firmly connected, which they were. I then pointed the remote back at the television, but still no response. Next, as I have been prompted previously under similar circumstances ("Your X-1 platform ..."), I pulled the plug and waited 30-plus seconds before reconnecting. Thirty seconds later, I re-plugged and still my television sat idle. Next I went into my home office to check the status of my computer since they're "cableized" together. The lights on my modem were flashing (a hopeful sign) so I clicked on one of my desk top icons and was met with the dreaded "No internet connection," confirming my worst suspicion. For the moment, 90 minutes before game time, I was out of service (heck, I was out of luck). Finally, I called my cable provider for clarification/further confirmation when I was met with the equally dreaded pre-recorded message: "There has been a service interruption in your area. Service is expected to be restored tomorrow afternoon." "TOMORROW AFTERNOON? THE GAME IS TONIGHT!" That was the exclamation I can print. What came next was not particularly complimentary.

For the next hour or so I pattered and muttered and did nothing to improve my circumstances. At 9:30 pm I called my brother to get a score. (He lives in Washington, DC and has a smart phone. I live in Maryland and have a flip phone, a k a "stupid phone"). Unfortunately, he had left his cell phone in another room and didn't hear my call. Frustrated, I swore yet again and trudged upstairs to go to bed. After getting into my "jammies," I laid down in bed and rolled onto my left side to set the alarm on my clock radio when it hit me (not the clock radio); the baseball game is being broadcast on the radio! And so I scrolled the dial on the clock radio until I heard ESPN radio broadcasters John Shambee and Jessica Mendoza calling the game. If I can't watch the game, I can certainly listen to it. And so I did, just like I did as a "little-leaguer" all those many years ago listening to Ken Coleman and Ned Martin of the "Boston Red Sox radio network" while living on Athelstane Road in Newton Centre, Ma. Except this time, I wasn't clutching a transistor radio. I was hands free, listening.

For the next nearly three hours, I laid in bed and listened. Most of the broadcast I heard and some of it I missed as occasionally I fell asleep. But for a time I was transported back in time sort of, before cable television proliferated when the games were broadcast almost exclusively on radio and baseball was seen through the eyes of those sitting in the "Catbird seat," to quote the legendary Red Barber. Listening to how they described what they saw during the game was how many of my generation - and the preceding generation, fell in love with baseball: "How about that!" to quote the late, great, Mel Allen.

It was a late night, but happily, for me and Red Sox Nation, the Sox won and will now be returning to the World Series for the first time since 2013. Game one will be Tuesday night, Oct. 23. I can't imagine that there will be a repeat non-performance from my cable provider, but if there is, and I am forced to go to plan "B", radio, I will do so. The circumstances got us a win in game five, so there's no reason to think it wouldn't get us a win in game one, too. After all, it's not only the ballplayers that are superstitious.

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

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