

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

During Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Open House 2019, Bryce Perry of the Town of Herndon listens as his sons, Ronan and Samuel discuss fire safety and escape plans with Captain Robert W. Kitchen, Fire Station 4, Herndon.

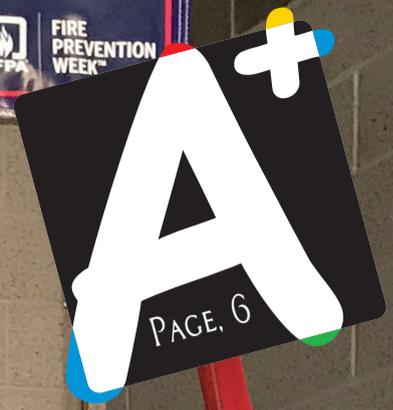
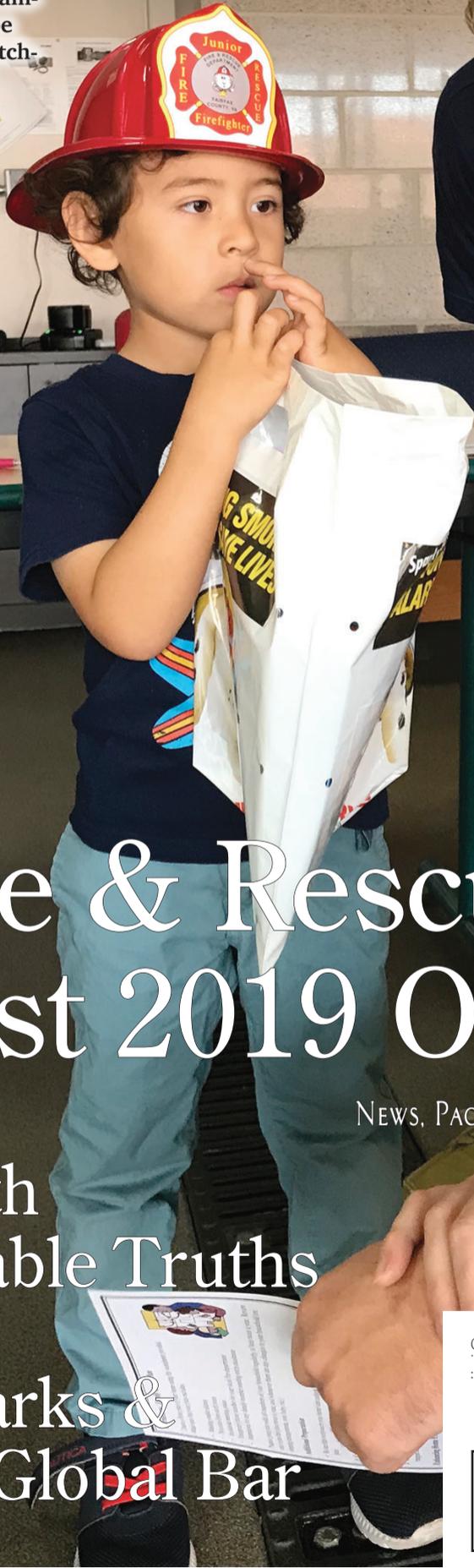
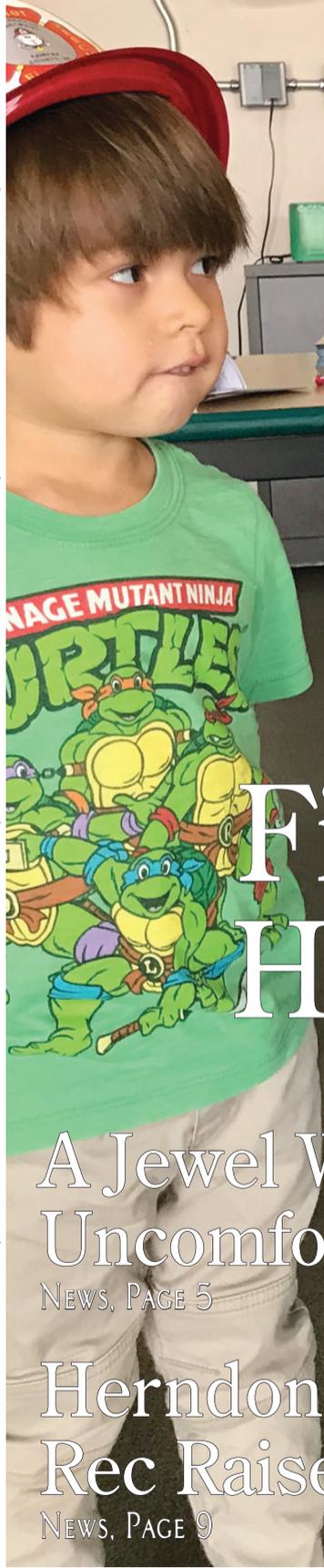


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10



Fire & Rescue Stations Host 2019 Open House

NEWS, PAGE 12

A Jewel With Uncomfortable Truths

NEWS, PAGE 5

Herndon Parks & Rec Raises Global Bar

NEWS, PAGE 9

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Car Seat Safety Check. 5-8 p.m. at the Reston district police station, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-478-0904 to schedule. In preparation for your appointment, you should install the seat in your vehicle using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

2019 North/West Fairfax County Distinguished Citizen Dinner.

Powhatan District BSA recognizes a distinguished business and civic leader, Frederick P. Baerenz, President & CEO of AOG Wealth Management. Join Us for a Great Evening — Celebrate the impact of BSA Scouting in our area. Benefit BSA programs for boys and girls in North/West Fairfax County.

Time: 6 p.m. Reception, Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar
7 p.m. Dinner & Program.
Location: River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls, Va. 22066
For more information, please contact: Raymond.Posluszny@Scouting.org. Phone: 202-669-3548
For online registrations: <http://bit.ly/2lYfhGt>

TUESDAY/OCT. 29

DMV2Go at the Pavilion. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

Construction Career Fair. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Dulles Expo Center, North Hall, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Interested in a career in building America's infrastructure? Employers will be collecting resumes, discussing current openings, and interview applicants on site. Industry employers are seeking new employees at all levels, from laborers to engineers. This event is free to all job seekers. Visit the website <http://www.nuca.com/careerfair>.

TUESDAY/NOV. 19

DMV2GO at the Library. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go.

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| ASHBURN/DULLES | BROADLANDS | CENTREVILLE | CHESTERFIELD | FALLS CHURCH | HERNDON | SOUTH RIDING | VIENNA | Coming Soon! |



Growing glass pile.



Lawyers Road-Reston Parkway Park-And-Ride location

PHOTOS BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

No More Curbside Pickup for Glass

Residents will have to take their glass bottles and jars to a purple bin.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Oct. 1, Fairfax County announced it will no longer accept glass bottles and jars in curbside recycling bins.

The county decided to make the announcement after consulting with private recycling sorting centers and Covanta Fairfax, Inc., which operates the waste-to-energy plant. With the elimination of glass jars and containers from its single-stream curbside program, the county provided options for glass containers.

“Residents should reuse glass containers or bring them to purple, glass-only recycling containers located throughout the region. If this is not possible, glass should be placed in the trash,” said Fairfax County in its post.

Glass items not accepted included lamps, light bulbs, ceramics, porcelain, mirrors, windows and sheet glass.

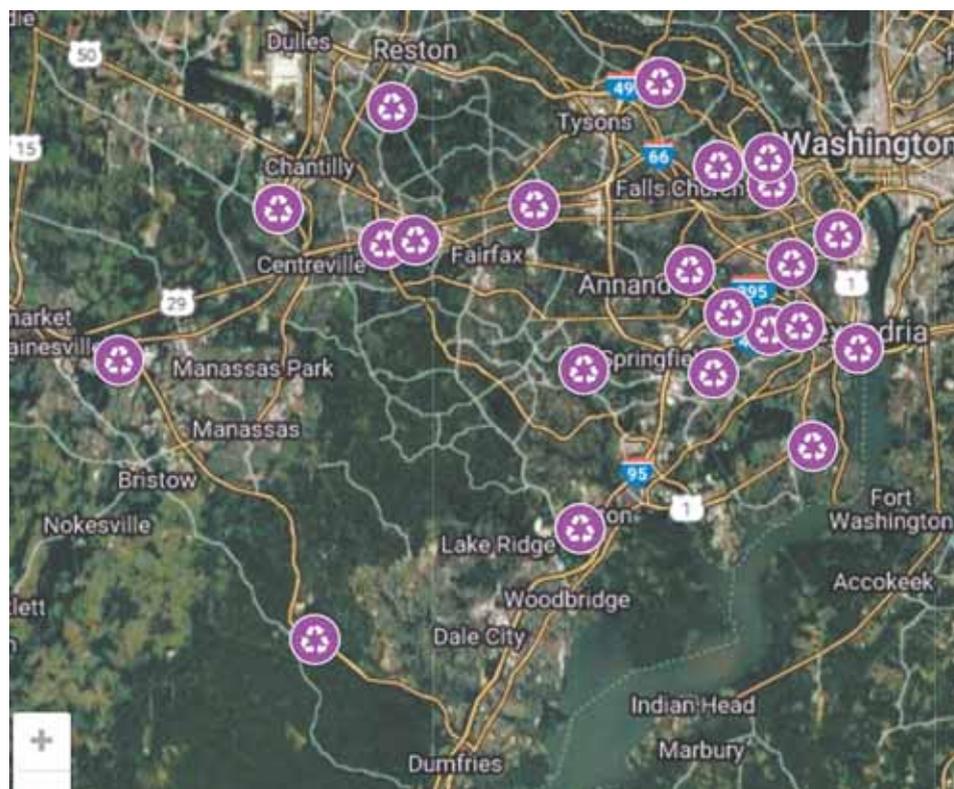
Glass collected from the purple containers will be delivered to the only glass processing plant in the area, the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton.

When residents deliver used glass containers to purple, glass-only recycling containers, that glass is crushed and reused in county projects. Glass processed in Lorton is pulverized. It has been tested and reused in place of quarried gravel as bedding and fill construction projects.

For years, most glass has passed through the recycling process as residue, or waste. Some of the glass is applied as landfill cover, an approved use by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, but most of it is simply landfilled with other unrecyclable waste.

Broken glass should be packaged into a rigid container, labeled and set out with trash for disposal. Intact glass windows, sliding doors, glass sheets and mirrors can be taken to the I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex for disposal.

The county forewarned Feb. 15, 2019 that it was encountering many problems with



Map shows Northern Virginia's Glass Recovery Program's locations of Purple Glass Only Drop-Off Bins.

Glass Recycling Drop-Off Locations

Northern Virginia's Glass Recovery Program-Locations of Purple Glass Only Drop-Off Bins in Northern Virginia Partners:

FAIRFAX COUNTY

I-66 Transfer Station
Fairfax County Recycling and Disposal Center
Mount Vernon District Governmental Center
Springfield District Governmental Center
Mason District Governmental Center
Sully District Governmental Center
Providence Community Center
Franconia Governmental Center
Fairfax County Government Center – Lot B
Reston South Park and Ride
Dolley Madison Library

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

South Royal Street & Jones Point Drive
4251 Eisenhower Ave
3224 Colvin St
Tower Court & South Whiting Street

ARLINGTON COUNTY

2800 S Taylor St
Quincy Park
Aurora Hills Recreation Center
Cherrydale Branch Library
Lee Community Center

glass in its single-stream recycling. When glass comingled with other materials in the County's single-stream recycling program, it often broke during truck collection and transport to material recovery centers. The broken glass mixed with other more valuable recycled items such as cardboard and metals and contaminated them, lowering their scrap value and making them more

challenging to sell in the marketplace.

Compounding the problem, approximately two years ago, China, the largest consumer for recycled materials, imposed stricter import standards on the quality of recycled content it accepted. Also, the additional heavy weight of broken glass when intermixed with other recyclables presented extra costs when transporting the mixed

materials. The broken, abrasive glass also damaged machinery.

Ten other states have created container deposit laws or so-called “bottle bills.” Under a bottle bill system, when you purchase a beverage container, you pay an additional deposit amount (usually 5 or 10 cents per container), which is added to the cost of the product. Once the product has been consumed, you take the empty container to a redemption center where you receive your deposit back.

According to Fairfax County, glass processed in Lorton is pulverized. It has been tested and reused in place of quarried gravel as bedding and fill construction projects such as the Flatlick Branch sanitary sewer replacement project. See www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=N0toyRgH_YE.

For container glass, place it in the trash where it will go to the landfill with other unrecyclable waste, much like what is currently happening with contaminated recyclable materials in the county. According to “Fairfax County Government Public Works, *Shatter the Glass Ceiling – Recycle Glass @ I-95*:

“For years, most glass has passed through the recycling process as residue, or waste. Some of the glass is applied as landfill cover, an approved use by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, but most of it is simply landfilled with other unrecyclable waste.”

“If the glass is broken,” the county stated, “Carefully package into a rigid container. Label the package “GLASS” and set out with your trash for disposal... Intact glass windows, sliding doors, glass sheets and mirrors can be taken to the I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex for disposal.”

Virginia Recycles.org released on its site, the fact sheet “Container Glass Recycling in Virginia,” by Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Northern Virginia Waste Management Board. The sheet described how other parts of the country recycle glass and multiple options to improve glass recycling in Virginia. Among options names were Deposit and Extended Producer Responsibility laws, recycling grant programs, and removal of glass containers from curbside and drop-off recycling programs with establishment of glass-only drop-off and collection programs which Fairfax instituted.

Dates, Deadlines and Candidates

❖ On or About Sept. 20: Absentee Voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax

❖ Oct. 15: Voter Registration Deadline. In-person: 5 p.m., online: 11:59 p.m.

❖ Oct. 29: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, 5 p.m.

❖ Nov. 2 Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.

❖ Nov. 5: Deadline to return your ballot to the Office of Elections, 7 p.m.

❖ Nov. 5: Election Day, Polling Places open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fairfax County Office of Elections,

Hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323

Fairfax, VA 22035

703-222-0776 TTY 711

voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/

When you register to vote in Virginia, you do not register to vote by party. Virginia is an Open Primary state which means that any registered voter in Virginia can vote in either a Democratic or Republican primary. When both parties are holding a primary election, you will be asked which primary you want to vote in when you check in to vote with your photo ID. Note, you may only vote in one primary.

Voter ID Requirements:

Per Virginia law effective July 1, 2014, all residents must provide valid photo identification when they vote in-person. Please consult the VA Department of Elections for the most up to date information regarding acceptable forms of voter photo ID.

Many types of photo ID are acceptable for voting in Virginia. You only need to show ONE acceptable photo ID to vote. Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired. Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver's license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Employer-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, Virginia Voter Photo ID card



ARCHIVE PHOTO

On or About Sept. 20: Absentee Voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT, Fairfax County

- ❖ Member Virginia Senate, vote for one in your district
- ❖ Member House of Delegates, vote for one in your district
- ❖ Commonwealth's Attorney, vote for one
- ❖ Sheriff, vote for one
- ❖ Chairman Board of Supervisors, vote for one
- ❖ Member School Board at Large
- ❖ Member Board of Supervisors, vote for one in your district
- ❖ Member School Board, vote for one in your district
- ❖ Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District
- ❖ School Bonds Referenda

Voter Registration and Voter Photo ID Opportunities

The Office of Elections is open during normal business hours to provide residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. The Office of Elections also provides residents opportunities to attend offsite events throughout the year.

School Bond Ballot Question

This is the text of the public school bond question that will be on the Nov. 5, 2019, general election ballot:

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement

bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$360,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishing and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?

Candidates, Fairfax County

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey C. McKay (D)
Joseph F. Galdo (R)

Commonwealth's Attorney
Steve T. Descano (D)
Jonathan L. Fahey (I)

Sheriff
Stacey Ann Kincaid (D)
Christopher F. De Carlo (I)

Board of Supervisors, District Representatives
Braddock District
James R. Walkinshaw (D)
S. Jason Remer (R)
Carey Chet Campbell (I)

Dranesville District
John W. Foust (D) incumbent
Ed. R. Martin (R)

Hunter Mill District
Walter L. Acorn (D) unopposed

Lee District
Rodney L. Lusk (D) unopposed

Mason District
Penelope A. "Penny" Gross (D) incumbent
Gary N. Aiken (R)

Mount Vernon District
Daniel G. "Dan" Storck (D) incumbent, unopposed

Providence District
Dalia A. Palchik (D), unopposed

Springfield District
Linda D. Sperling (D)
Patrick S. "Pat" Herrity (R) incumbent

Sully District
Kathy L. Smith (D) incumbent
Srilekha R. Palle (R)

School Board
School Board At-Large (vote for three)
Abrar E. Omeish (endorsed by Democrats)
Cheryl A. Buford (endorsed by Republicans)
Priscilla M. DeStefano (endorsed by Republicans)
Rachna Sizemore Heizer (endorsed by Democrats)
Vinson Palathingal (endorsed by Republicans)
Ilryong Moon, incumbent (withdrawn)
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)

Braddock District, School Board
Zia Tompkins (endorsed by Republicans)
Megan O. McLaughlin, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)

Dranesville District, School Board
Anastasia S. Karloutsos (endorsed by Republicans)
Ardavan Mobasheri
Elaine V. Tholen (endorsed by Democrats)

Hunter Mill District, School Board
Laura Ramirez Drain (endorsed by Republicans)
Melanie K. Meren (endorsed by Democrats)

Lee District, School Board
Tamara J. Derenak Kaufax, incumbent, (endorsed by Democrats)

Mason District, School Board
Ricardy J. Anderson (endorsed by Democrats)
Tom L. Pafford

Mount Vernon District, School Board
Pamela C. Ononiwu
Steven D. Mosley (endorsed by Republicans)
Karen L. Corbett Sanders, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)

Providence District, School Board
Andrea L. "Andi" Bayer (endorsed by Republicans)
Jung Byun
Karl V. Frisch (endorsed by Democrats)

Springfield District, School Board
Laura Jane H. Cohen (endorsed by Democrats)
R. Kyle McDaniel
Elizabeth L. Schultz, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)

Sully District, School Board
Stella G. Pekarsky (endorsed by Democrats)
Tom A. Wilson, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)

Soil and Water Conservation Director
Northern Virginia District
Vote for Three
C. Jane Dudik (endorsed by Republicans)
Chris E. Koerner (endorsed by Democrats)
Christopher A. Bowen (endorsed by Republicans)
Edward F. McGovern (endorsed by Republicans)
Jonah E. "Jet" Thomas
Monica A. Billger (endorsed by Democrats)
Gerald Owen "Jerry" Peters Jr., incumbent, (endorsed by Democrats)

General Assembly
House of Delegates
District 34
Kathleen J. Murphy (D), incumbent
Gary G. Pan (R)

District 35
Mark L. Keam (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 36
Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum, incumbent, unopposed

SEE ELECTION DAY, PAGE 11



A Jewel With Uncomfortable Truths

Cast reactions to staged reading of 'Herndon Town,' part of 2019 Herndon Arts Week.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School Theatre presented a staged reading of 'Herndon Town' by playwright and novelist Kristen LePine on Friday, Oct. 11. Conceived and directed by Scott D. Pafumi, the high school's Theatre Arts Director, the project was one of the many activities celebrated during 2019 Herndon Arts Week, an initiative of Arts Herndon. According to Town Proclamation, the designated week provided a focal point to celebrate the unity created by the town's diverse cultural heritage through the arts as it demonstrated the vitality of community artists across all fields.

Originally commissioned by Herndon Middle School and performed as a one-act play in 2015, Pafumi chose to reach out to the community and perform the piece at an alternative venue, ArtSpace operated by Arts Herndon and in an alternative form, a staged read-

ing. "We are super delighted to bring back this little jewel of a play. ... As the new theatre teacher at Herndon High School, I want to make as many community connections as possible," said Pafumi.

The script swiftly chronicled the town's 100-year history from village status in 1858 to the present and captured the essence and struggles of what makes a community special with humor and honesty while at the same time probing some uncomfortable truths.

THE READING showcased a selection of teen thespians from Herndon and Reston, students at Herndon High who dressed in the uniformity of black rather than costumes. Being a sit-down reading with the actors in chairs configured in a semi-circle conducive to their character's relationships, it put them feet from audience members. Even with reading's simple attire and a short rehearsal schedule, the production affirmed performing arts are pivotal to the

SEE HERNDON TOWN, PAGE 7

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Herndon High School Theatre presents 'Herndon Town' by Kristen LePine, a staged reading conceived and directed by Scott D. Pafumi and presented during Arts Week at ArtSpace. Cast member Meena Megahed of Reston reads her lines as fellow HHS cast members, Lulu Megahed, Isaiah Hagee, Bridget Neely and Kate Grover wait for their cues.



Herndon High School cast members of 'Herndon Town,' Isaiah Hagee, Bridget Neely, Tina Thayer and Kate Grover during the staged reading performed Friday, Oct. 11 as part of Arts Week in Herndon.



Public Meetings 2019 Fall Transportation Meetings

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with a brief open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, including:

- Adjustments to Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE)
- Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- VTrans Draft Mid-term Transportation Needs (Virginia's Statewide Transportation Plan)
- Adjustments to the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Representatives of the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) 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, during which you may 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.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Open House begins at 4 p.m. in each of the locations unless otherwise noted.

<p>Tuesday, October 15, 2019* Richmond District Richmond Marriott Short Pump 4240 Dominion Boulevard Glen Allen, VA 23060 *This meeting will also provide opportunity for comment on the I-95 Corridor Study Plan</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 22, 2019** Northern Virginia District Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 **meeting begins at 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Monday, October 28, 2019*** Staunton District Doubletree Hotel Harrisonburg 1400 E. Market Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801 ***meeting begins at 3 p.m.</p>
<p>Wednesday, October 30, 2019 Salem District Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive Roanoke, VA 24017</p>	<p>Monday, November 4, 2019 Lynchburg District Lynchburg District Complex Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 6, 2019 Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Office 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435</p>
<p>Thursday, November 7, 2019 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210</p>	<p>Tuesday, November 12, 2019** Fredericksburg District James Monroe High School 2300 Washington Avenue Fredericksburg, VA 22401 **meeting begins at 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 13, 2019 Culpeper District VDOT Culpeper District Office 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701</p>

Fall meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning October 15, 2019.

You may submit comments on any transportation projects and initiatives to OIPI Deputy Director Ronique Day, 1221 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219 or PublicComments@OIPI.Virginia.gov. **Comments will be accepted until November 30, 2019.**

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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www.SaintAndrewLC.org 703-830-2768

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Make sure that costumes are fire resistant, use reflective tape and opt for face paint instead of masks to help keep children safe this Halloween. Parents or other adult should accompany children under 12.

Keeping Children Safe on Halloween

Safety advocates offer tips ranging from costumes to trick-or-treating.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From princesses to superheroes, within the next two weeks, as Halloween approaches, many children will be choosing a costume. As children express their creativity with the help of wigs and light sabers, public safety advocates are encouraging caution both in costume selection and mapping-out a Halloween night route.

"There are several components to safety, first make certain the costumes are well-fitted so they aren't a tripping hazard," said Tammy Franks, senior program manager for Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council. "Instead of masks that could obstruct their view try using non-toxic face paint."

It's possible to use face paint that is free of toxins, but doesn't sacrifice a creative disguise, says Aieda Turner of costume supply store Total Fright in Arlington. "Mehron face paint is completely safe and it's made of aloe vera and cucumber and doesn't have any alcohol which can irritate a child's skin," she said. "Almost all children's costumes made now, even elaborate costumes, are fire resistant."

When children are trick-or-treating without a parent, says Franks, drivers should be able to see children, especially if they are wearing a dark costume.

Adding glow-in-the-dark or reflective tape can help. "Children should carry a flashlight or glow stick so that they can see and be seen," she said. "Parents should make sure that costume is flame resistant and they should add a reflective component."

The costume itself shouldn't have accessories that pose hazards, says Franks. "For example, if your costume includes a sword or knife, make it out of foam or cardboard or something flexible," she said.

When out-and-about trick-or-treating on Halloween, retired pediatrician Julia Baker, MD, advises parents to accompany children under the age of 12. "Parents know their children best and should use their own judgement when it comes to allowing a child to go trick-or-treating [without an adult]," she said. Parents should make a plan with their child

about the route they'll take so they'll know where to find them in an emergency situation. They should also agree on the time when a child should be back at home."

Children should carry a cell phone so that parents can contact them if necessary, says Baker. "Parents should definitely be able to reach their children on Halloween," she said. "As hard as it might be these days, parents should stress to their children the danger of texting and keeping their head buried in their phones while trick-or-treating."

Staying in well-lit areas and trick-or-treating with a group of friends can help make Halloween activities safer. "The same basic rules of pedestrian safety also apply on Halloween," said Franks. "Cross the street in cross-

walks, stay on the sidewalk instead of running through yards and walk instead of running when crossing the street so that you don't trip."

—Tammy Franks, Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council

2019 North/West Fairfax County Distinguished Citizen Dinner
Recognized by Powhatan District BSA

Honoree
Frederick F. Barrett
President & CEO
AOG Wealth Management

Chair
Gary Pan
President & CEO
Panos Consulting, Inc.

Join Us for a Great Evening

- Recognize a distinguished business and civic leader
- Celebrate the impact of BSA Scouting in our area
- Benefit BSA programs for boys and girls in North/West Fairfax County

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2019
Time: 6:00 p.m. Reception
Hon. d'oeuvres & Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program
Location: River Bend Country Club
375 Walker Road, Great Falls, Va. 22066

For more information, please contact:
Ray Flansburg
1190 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301-646-5441 | Fax: 301-564-0103
Raymond.Flanzburg@scouting.org
For online registration: <http://bit.ly/2Y18Ca>

THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online Prepare for Holiday Happenings 2019



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- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School student and cast member, Lulu Megahed of Reston performs her part in the staged reading of 'HerndonTown' by Kristen LePine as her sister, Meena and fellow cast member Isaiah Hagee wait for their cues.

Herndon Town

FROM PAGE 5

enhancement and enrichment of human expression, especially to its youth actors.

"I chose to do this show because the world is a sea of art, and acting is my ship," said Isaiah Hagee, 17.

For Meena Megahed, 15, and Abigail Westman both of Reston, they chose to participate in the staged reading for a variety of reasons. For Westman, she chose to participate to be part of the school's theatre program while acting. Megahed said, "Because I am the happiest when doing theatre."

While Amy Sacks said that she had never participated in a staged reading and decided, "to try something new," her fellow cast member, Tina Thayer, 17, was an old hand at it. "I was in middle school when 'Herndon Town' was first written; I'm here tonight to honor the origin of our town and inspire hope for the future," Thayer said.

For other actors, "Herndon Town" revealed what the village once was and how it changed to be the Herndon of today, according to actor Roland Lamoureux. "I volunteered to be part of 'Herndon Town' because I love theatre, and I love Herndon," said Lamoureux.

For Leilani Johnson, 16, part of the script stunned her and pre-

"I was in middle school when 'Herndon Town' was first written; I'm here tonight to honor the origin of our town and inspire hope for the future."

— Tina Thayer, 17

sented an uncomfortable truth. "I was shocked to learn about the civil rights conflicts Herndon had in the past. I am African-American, so this story in the play hit me the hardest," she said.

COMING SOON: Herndon High School Theatre presents the 2019-2020 Season of Royalty and invites the public to the classic Shakespearean tragedy "Hamlet" performed on Dec. 5-8 and Stephen Schwartz's musical "Pippin" that will be presented April 30-May 3, 2020. For ticket information and to support HHS Drama Boosters Club Inc., visit herndonadrama.org.

CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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★ SHOW HIGHLIGHTS ★

<p>THURSDAY OCT 24, 7PM Barn Night "Halloween on Horseback"</p>	<p>FRIDAY OCT 25, 7PM Military Night Puissance High Jump</p>	<p>SATURDAY OCT 26, 6:30PM World Cup Night President's Cup</p>
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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Jack's Pumpkin Glow. Through Oct. 27, at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Enjoy an immersive Halloween stroll along a trail illuminated by thousands of intricately carved pumpkins, many highlighting the Capital City's most famous including pumpkin look-alikes of iconic landmarks, musicians, movie stars, superheroes and princesses. In addition, master carvers provide tips on how to create your own masterpiece during live pumpkin carving demos. Enjoy delicious fall food and beverages at a newly expanded concessions area. Tickets start at just \$16.99 for children and \$22.99 for adults, and will be available at <http://www.glowpumpkin.com/washington-dc>.

Fiber Artist Anne Smyers. Through Oct. 30, at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Smyers exhibits art quilts reflecting her love of flowers and botanicals, which she uses to create gardens, mandalas, and cultural commentary. Visit www.annesmyers.com.

Giant Food Community Bag Fundraiser. Through Oct. 31, 5 p.m.-12 p.m. at Giant Food Store, 1450 North Point Village Center, Reston. Cindy's Legacy, Reston-based charity that provides financial aid to cancer patients, has been selected the beneficiary of Giant Food's October Community Bag Program at the Reston location. Cindy's Legacy will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased. Visit www.cindyslegacy.org.

Fall Pumpkin Festival. Through Nov. 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Ticonderoga Farms, 26469 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. Enjoy the changing of the leaves and the cool crisp air in the great outdoors at our Fall Pumpkin Festival. \$11-\$18. Visit www.ticonderoga.com.

Herndon Farmers Market. Thursdays, through mid-November, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Historic Downtown Herndon, Lynn Street. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/FarmersMarket for more.

Reston Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon at Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. The largest of the Fairfax County Farmers Markets. SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program. For list of vendors and more, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/reston.

Centroid Towns: Like a Passing Shadow. Through Jan. 4, at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. GRACE presents the next chapter of Baltimore-based artist Nate Larson's Centroid Towns project. Since the first US census in 1790, the United States Census Bureau has been recording the mean center of population as it moves steadily west and south. The first Centroid Town recorded was Chestertown, Maryland, and the projected Centroid of the 2020 census is Hartville, Missouri. Larson will dive deeper into the community of Waterford, Virginia, Centroid Town of 1810. Visit restonarts.org/exhibition/nate-larson/ for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Weekend Food for Kids. 10 a.m. At Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Free. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, invites community members to help pack food for its Weekend Food for Kids program. This critical program provides nonperishable food over the weekend to children who receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year at Title I schools in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. if you would like to help with setup. No RSVP necessary. Visit the website www.alnv.org.

Together We Give. 6:30-9 p.m. At Leidos Conference Center, 11951 Freedom Drive, Reston. Three small nonprofits serving children in need in the community will pitch their projects and guests vote to award small grants from the proceeds of the evening. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: givingcircleofhope.org

Meditation Workshop: Contemplating Creativity. 7-8:30 p.m. At Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston. Join Greater Reston Arts Center and Jean McTigue from Beloved Yoga for a meditation workshop contemplating the Nate Larson exhibition, currently on view at the gallery. Free for members of the Greater Reston Arts Center. \$5 for non-members. To register, email info@restonarts.org.

Official crew photo of the Apollo 11 Prime Crew. From left are astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Commander; Michael Collins, Command Module Pilot; and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Lunar Module Pilot.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission on Exhibit in Reston

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum is hosting a special exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission — the first time humans stepped onto the surface of the Moon. The poster exhibition is brought to you courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission is on view through the end of the year. Visitors will enjoy learning not only about the history of Apollo 11 but also the story behind the name of two of Reston's schools: Armstrong El-

ementary and Aldrin Elementary. Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission Poster Exhibition is based on a traveling exhibition of the same name, developed by the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibition is made possible by the support of Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos, Joe Clark, Bruce R. McCaw Family Foundation, the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, John and Susann Norton, and Gregory D. and Jennifer Walston Johnson.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

Light the Night. 5 - 9 p.m. At Reston Town Center. Walk to honor and remember those touched by cancer, and celebrate fundraising in support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's. Registered participants will receive an illuminated lantern. Call 703-399-2941. Visit www.lightthenight.org/nca.

Indian Cooking: Indian Salads. 6-7:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center, RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. Learn to cook healthy vegetarian food from different regions of India. This will be a demonstration with some hands-on opportunities. Students will be able to taste the results of what is cooked. Cost is \$20/\$30.

OCT. 18-20

Farm Harvest Days. At Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Play games, enjoy rides, and munch on tasty foods as "Fall Carnival Fun" returns to the park for three days. Carnival hours are Friday 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Ride tickets are \$1 each or 24 for \$20. Rides take three to five tickets each. Friday night only, unlimited ride wrist bands available online or at the door. Great for a scout or youth group team-building outing. Parking and admission is free. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.

OCT. 18-NOV 9

"A Gentlemen's Guide to Love & Murder." At Reston Community Center's CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Players presents the D.C. Metro Premiere of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder," the 2014 Tony winner for Best Musical. Performances dates: October 18, 19, 25, 26, 27*, November 1, 2, 3*, 8, 9. Starts 8 p.m. (*2 p.m. matinee). Tickets: are \$28/adult; \$24/seniors and students. Visit the website: www.restonplayers.org or 703-476-4500 x3.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Herndon Homecoming Parade. 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Grab a lawn chair and find your favorite spot along Elden Street to cheer on the parade participants. The parade route extends along Elden Street from Locust Street/Sterling Road to Lynn Street. This year's theme is Into the Future, so expect to see some fascinating interpretations of what lies ahead. Street closings and detours will occur approximately between 6:30 a.m.-12

p.m. Call Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, 703-787-7300 or visit herndon-va.gov/recreation.

Reston Homes Tour. The 18th Annual Reston Homes Tour will offer a chance to view five private residences, all with varying architecture style and flair. In addition, the tour will include Reston's newest luxury apartments — The VY/Reston Heights — where they will offer a "Taste of Autumn" and Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, Reston's retirement community where you can purchase a \$12 box lunch (all proceeds will benefit the Reston Historic Trust and Museum). Tickets on sale online at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/event-details/reston-home-tour-2> and in-store at the Reston Museum, The Wine Cabinet, Chesapeake Chocolates, and GRACE. Early bird rate available in-store are \$25, early bird pricing ends Oct. 11. Sponsored by The Reston Historic Trust & Museum.

Runway to the Cure Fashion Show. 6-9 p.m. At Reston Town Center Pavilion, Reston. Enjoy a fashion show of clothing and accessories from local retailers and help raise funds for breast cancer research and local patient assistance, benefitting the Susan G. Komen Foundation and Step Sisters. Donation requested. [Facebook.com/runwaytothecure](https://www.facebook.com/runwaytothecure) runwaytothecure.org.

OCT 19 TO NOV. 9, 2019

Murder Mystery Theatre. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At StageCoach Theatre, 20937 Ashburn Road, Suites 115 & 120, Ashburn. "Murder on the British Express" — The British Express, the most elegant train of the 1950s, is bound from Northern England to London when the train comes to a sudden halt. On board are passengers, a mummy and the renowned detective, Hemlock Holmes. Cost: \$60-65 with dinner, \$25 without dinner, varies by date. Email: info@stagecoachtc.com. Visit the website: <https://stagecoachtc.com/murder-on-the-british-express/>

MONDAY/OCT. 21

Reston Photographic Society Meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Jeff Mauritzen gives a presentation on travel photography. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts to attend the new season of presentations. RPS is a special interest group of the League of Reston Artists and holds meetings on the third Monday of the month. Visit the LRA website at www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

TUESDAY/OCT. 22

Documentary Screening. 7-9 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, Rooms 1 and 2, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Free showing of the documentary "An Endless War? — Getting Out of Afghanistan", a documentary film directed by Bob Coen. The one hour documentary will be followed by a discussion
INOVA Blood Drive. 1-6 p.m. At Reston Town Center, beside the Pavilion. Schedule Bloodmobile appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 23

Meet Me at the Movies. 10 a.m. At Bow Tie Cinemas in Reston Town Center. Reston Association presents the feature film "Poms." Refreshments and prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Email: Ashleigh@reston.org or call 703-435-6577 or visit reston.org.

Food and Nutrition - Getting the Most from the Farmers Market. 2-3 p.m. At Reston Community Center, RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. Get tips on how to make your trip to the farmer's market work for you. Learn how to save money and to pick the best foods while developing a relationship with local growers. Free.

Finance: Tax Update and Retirement Review. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center, RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. Every year the tax code overhaul will affect all tax payers. Join this class to find out about the changes ranging from the increased standard deductions, revamped exemptions, deductions and credits, and the new tax brackets. This class will be taught by a financial advisor and a Certified Public Accountant. This class is for educational purposes only; there will be no solicitation or obligations of the attendees. Free.

Iberi Choir. 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, Reston. The Iberi Choir performs Georgian polyphonic a cappella music featuring gorgeously rich, shifting blocks of improvised harmony, that will enchant with complex combinations of wild, crowing falsetto soaring over growling basses and clarion tenors. \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

Bernstein Does Broadway. 12:30-1:30 p.m. At Reston Town Square Park, Reston. Lunchtime with the Arts at Mason. Students from Mason's nationally-recognized jazz studies program play into autumn with standards and pages from the popular repertoire. Free. Presented by Reston Community Center in partnership with GMU College of Visual and Performing Arts. Hosted by Reston Town Center Association. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

OCT. 24-28

Washington West Film Festival. At Bow Tie Cinemas in Reston Town Center. With films from China, Germany, the United Kingdom, and other countries, this year's lineup features one of the festival's most diverse schedules to date. A highlight is the spotlight that it puts on local filmmakers. This year's selected films showcase a variety of perspectives on Washington, D.C. including "Miss Virginia," which features a powerful performance by "Orange is the New Black's" Uzo Aduba as a mother, based in the inner-city of Washington D.C., who launches a movement to give her son a better education and save his future. Additionally included this year is "17 Blocks," which tells a family's saga over the span of two decades in one of America's notorious neighborhoods — just 17 blocks from the U.S. Capitol. Visit wwfilmfest.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 25

Spooktacular. 6:30-8 p.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The event features Halloween games, crafts, and a magic show by the High Energy Magic of Speed. Children who are ages 3-8 are invited to wear a costume. Each participant will receive a bag full of treats. Parents must accompany children at the event. Cost is \$11/advance; \$15/day of event. Sign up at the Herndon Community Center or visit <https://herndonwebtrac.com>.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

UCP Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. This juried fair showcases a wide variety of quality handcrafted items. Lunch and a bake sale will be available. Free Admission and Parking A portion of the proceeds will benefit Herndon-Reston FISH, a local non-profit that assists area residents in crisis. A Fall Festival, with family activities will be held in conjunction with the fair. Visit www.unitedchristianparishartandcraftfair.com.

Herndon Parks & Rec Raises Global Bar

Wins 3rd place globally for Best Emergency Preparedness & Risk Management Plan for the 2019 Herndon Festival.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The International Festival & Events Association (the IFEA) recently recognized the Town of Herndon Parks & Recreation Department with its Bronze Award of third place in the global category of Best Emergency Preparedness & Risk Management Plan for an Event \$250,000 to \$1 Million. The Department received the award for its unparalleled planning, execution and follow up review of the 2019 Herndon Festival. According to a statement by Cindy Roeder, Executive Director of Herndon Parks and Recreation: "As an event based in the densely populated Washington, D.C. metro area, providing for patron security is a priority. The Risk Management/Emergency Operations Plan is intended to ensure the safety of the festival attendees, the town's staff, the event's volunteers, and the town's assets."

"The IFEA is pleased to recognize and highlight those cities and markets who have worked, through concerted efforts, to provide an environment conducive to successful festivals and events," said the IFEA President Steven Wood Schmader during presentations. According to the IFEA, an international panel of industry experts judged entries based upon a compilation of detailed information in multiple areas including but not limited to Community Overview and Government and Non-Government Support of Festivals & Events.

In an interview with Roeder and Town of Herndon Police Department Lieutenants Si Ahmad and Steve Pihonak, each provided insight into why the IFEA recognized the quality of the 2019 Herndon Festival, as an example they hoped all cities globally would work to emulate. Asked why Herndon won the award when there were so many festivals across the globe in the same fiscal range, Roeder said, "Our plan was well thought out, well-executed, and reasonable."

"We've been doing this for many years, so this is not something new," qualified Ahmad. "We had meetings upon meetings, and there have been procedures in place. ... We knew with the location change we'd be coming across new challenges, and we were pleased with the outcome."

ROEDER said while the plan itself read similarly to previous years, the physical execution of the security plan and the event procedures were recreated in every way.

Roeder detailed actions in writing:
❖ "New traffic patterns on the surrounding streets and the resulting detours, signage, public communication, and inter-



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Cindy Roeder, Executive Director of Herndon Parks & Recreation and Lieutenant Si Ahmad of the Town of Herndon Police Department display the Bronze Award Parks & Recreation received from the International Festival & Events Association for Best Emergency Preparedness & Risk Management Plan for an Event \$250,000 to \$1 Million. The IFEA recognized the Parks & Recreation Department for the 2019 Herndon Festival.

section controls by the police were instituted.

❖ A new perimeter and entrance fencing plan was developed. Fencing was installed in the exterior roadway medians to prevent risky pedestrian mid-block crossings and random drop-offs by parents and car services.

❖ Access controls to NWFCU buildings were in place.

❖ Shuttle bus routes and drop off/pick up locations were studied and determined. Transit supervisors provided recommendations for pull-off lanes, ADA accessibility and pedestrian access to the pick-up points.

❖ The county Fire Marshals and town's Building Official made several advance visits to ensure fire lanes and mandatory distances from structures for carnival rides and food vendors were established.

❖ On-site walkthroughs were provided to key groups of staff, police and volunteers during the planning and the week prior.

❖ The tabletop exercise for Town staff was comprehensive in reviewing the new site, layout and points requiring enhanced vigilance."

AS FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED in the planning and execution, Roeder stated that besides Parks and Recreation, Public Works

SEE HERNDON FESTIVAL, PAGE 10

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NEWS

Herndon Festival Recognized Globally

FROM PAGE 9
and Police and Fire and Rescue EMS were among those represented in the decision-making. "There were approximately 15 people at the table. The core was the Executive Committee members, staff, volunteer coordinator, the arts representative, police representative and Parks and Recreation people. We couldn't do without any of them." "For us, pretty much everyone on the Herndon Police Department was involved, about 50," said Ahmad. "We had various other agencies helping us out as well," he said.

According to Roeder: "The three town agencies met frequently in advance to review and assess the realistic implementation of site security and worked throughout the festival weekend to modify details such as fencing and gate configurations to improve both access, appearance and flow while still protecting the public."

Roeder said that in 2019 when the festival location changed for the first time in 38 years to the private campus of Northwest Federal Credit Union in Herndon, its management wanted to know what the department would do about security and logistics. "When we went through and answered all their questions, their level of confidence in us based on that, is what convinced their leadership team to go forward," she acknowledged.

After hearing of the award, Festival Executive Committee Member Al Hobson wrote in an email to Roeder: "Woohoo! Very significant recognition, especially in the times that we live in. Kudos to you, Cindy, and your entire Parks and Rec Staff and to the Herndon Police and Herndon Public Works Departments. Having served in Law Enforcement and

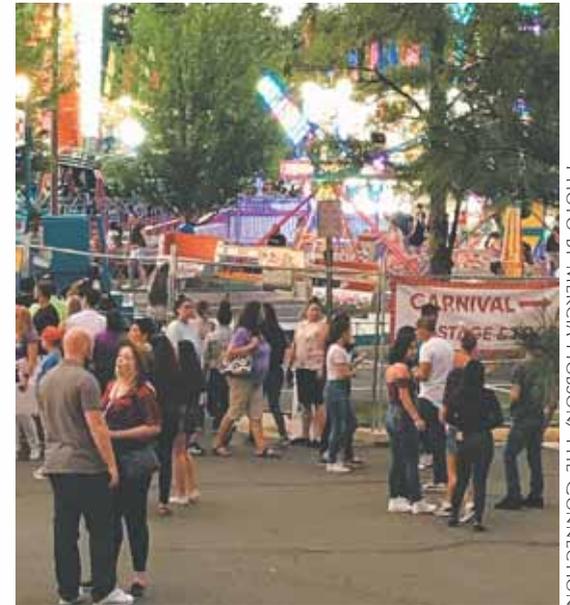


PHOTO BY MERGIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The 2019 Herndon Festival.

the security field for 41 years, I know that safety and security is not a 'bolt-on' product. To be done correctly and effectively, it has to be part of the fabric. Having the PD and PW involved 12 months out of the year in the planning, initiation, implementation, and follow-up is critical to our success and the safety and well being of our sponsors and attendees. This is one of those untold stories that go unnoticed by the general public and by those who tend to criticize what we do in producing this festival. I am proud to be part of a team that strives to get it right each time and every time."

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-Werner Heisenberg

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

OPINION

Election Day

FROM PAGE 4

District 37
David L. Bulova (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 38
L. Kaye Kory (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 39
Nick O. Bell (R)
Vivian E. Watts (D), incumbent

District 40
Dan I. Helmer (D)
Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), incumbent

District 41
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent
John M. Wolfe (I)
Rachel D. Mace (L)

District 42
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 43
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent

District 44
Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 45
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 46
Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 48
Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 49
Alfonso H. Lopez (D), incumbent
Terry W. Modglin (I)

District 53
Marcus B. Simon (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 67
Karrie K. Delaney (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 86
Ibraheem S. Samirah (D), incumbent, unopposed

Virginia State Senate

District 30
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 31
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 32
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 33
Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent
Suzanne D. Fox (R)

District 34
J. C. "Chap" Petersen (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 35
Richard L. "Dick" Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 36
Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 37
Dave W. Marsden (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 39
George L. Barker (D), incumbent
S. W. "Dutch" Hillenburg (R)

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No Soap. Radio.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This is a punchline to a joke I heard 50-plus years ago during my adolescence. I never knew what the actual joke was, but somehow it was thought to be funny. And so too was it funny the other day when preparing to take a shower at home, I noticed that the bar of soap waiting for me in the shower was razor thin and insufficient for the task at hand. I then opened the bathroom vanity where I knew I had back up and saw there was only one bar remaining. It was the last hold-out of an eight pack I had bought many months ago. As Maurice Chevalier sang in the movie "Gigi:" "Ah. I remember it well."

And remember it well as I remember other similar bulk-type purchases. Sometimes, being diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer interferes in the most unusual way. When I buy things or make arrangements

when the use/benefit is in the future, I'll often wonder if I'll still be alive to actually derive the benefit from this day's commitment. As involves the soap; that day in the supermarket aisle, I was really looking for a two- or a three-pack, not an eight-pack, hesitating to over-buy when I may under-use. I suppose if I had plenty of money and fewer financial concerns than I do now, I wouldn't have given this soap purchase any thought at all. But I'm me, not somebody else.

And sometimes, I don't want to be me. I'd rather be somebody else. Somebody else who throws a bit more caution to the wind. Somebody who damns the torpedoes and goes full speed ahead. Somebody who's a bit fast and furious and less slowky, if I can invoke metaphorical Comcast turtles into the conversation. Nevertheless, at the end of the day (at the beginning, too), I may not be Sammy Davis Jr., but "I Gotta Be Me."

And 'me' is someone who doesn't throw caution anywhere, has never sworn at a torpedo and loves turtles, especially when they beat hares. My approach to this excruciating cancer ordeal is to keep my glass half full, compartmentalize, be positive about the negative and not "Live Like You Were Dying," as sung by Tim McGraw, but to live like I was living. Which to me has meant to live normally as if I didn't have stage IV lung cancer, with no bucket list or urgency about anything; and to assimilate having cancer into my life as just another variable, like the weather or the Red Sox bullpen.

Unfortunately, and it might just be me (Oh, really), but this kind of soapy mundane minutiae does occupy (I'm not saying pre-occupy though) my world. But it doesn't necessarily occupy it because I have cancer. It occupies it because I'm more like my mother than I am my father and cancer or not, it's what I do. And being exactly who I am in spite of my diagnosis is how I've rolled through these last 10-plus years. It's been a living for which I remain extraordinarily grateful and to be honest about it: amazingly lucky.

Moreover, I make the same jokes, with or without punchlines, do the same impressions, invoke the same popular culture references and make decisions as I always have. In addition, I allocate resources, juggle funds and plan for the future while being mindful of the present likewise as I always have. My diagnosis certainly defines me, but I try not to let it control me. Still, its reality seeps into every decision I make, from soap to nuts. It's the elephant in the room and the pebble in my shoe (actually that's the neuropathy in my feet).

Still I have to take things in stride - or else. When I saw that last remaining bar of soap, it conjured memories of the tightrope I have to walk (Leon Russell not withstanding). And it gave me pause: Wow, I made it through that entire pack. Now what? Soap. No radio. And so it goes.

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

Fire & Rescue Stations Host 2019 Open House

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Plan and practice your fire escape.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

“In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out,” according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

On Saturday, Oct. 12, in support of NFPA’s 2019 campaign, “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!” Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department hosted an Open House from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at each of its 38 stations.

For firefighters at Station 39 North Point that serves Reston, Herndon, Great Falls and beyond and Station 4 Town of Herndon, as well as other stations, the daylong event provided an opportunity to educate children and adults about the importance of fire safety, planning and drills.

“This is the best part, interacting with the public, teaching the children,” said Captain Patrick Sheehan of North Point, Station 39. Various hands-on activities, as well as demonstrations, supported fire safety knowledge and NFPA’s 2019 campaign. Children aimed a real firefighter’s hose at painted wooden flames and soaked them with blasts of water. Fairfax County firefighters set kindling ablaze to demonstrate the effectiveness of fire suppression sprinklers and set fire to a small-scale, multi-compartment dollhouse-like structure to recreate fire behavior, flashback and effective door control.

THE DAMAVANDY FAMILY of Great Falls, mom Tania and children Max, 7, Layli, 5, and Arya, 3, tried out the fire hose. It took a concentrated effort by all three children to knock down the simulated fire. “It’s an annual tradition to come here. ... [The event provides] good reminders for fire safety,” said Tania Damavandy.

Sheehan explained to a group of children and adults that those caught in a home fire may have at the most two minutes to escape after the smoke detectors sound. He cautioned smoke could make things dark and confusing and urged attendees to “stay low, get out and stay out.” Sheehan added everyone should know two exit paths to the outside from every room in the house and have an outside meeting place.

To simulate the real-life experience of trying to get out of a smoke-filled home but in a controlled monitored environment, nearby a large shed emitted smoke from its rafters. “Want to come in and see what it’s like?” beckoned Sheehan. Created by Bill Coburn, Technician at Station 39, the smoke house allowed participants to experience first hand the effects of low-visibility and the reality of the need to train and train frequently. Inside claustrophobic, white smoke obliterated the walls and made actual exit hall-



During Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Open House 2019, Bryce Perry of the Town of Herndon listens as his sons, Ronan and Samuel discuss fire safety and escape plans with Captain Robert W. Kitchen, Fire Station 4, Herndon.



Smoke fills the air during a demonstration at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Open House 2019 held at Station 39 North Point. Firefighter Ganz sets ablaze a small-scale, wooden dollhouse-like structure to create a visual presentation of fire behavior, flashback and effective door control.



Captain Patrick Sheehan at Station 39 North Point looks over his new recruits, the Damavandy children from Great Falls, Max, 7, and his sisters Layli, 5, and Arya, 3, during Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department’s Open House 2019 at Station 39 North Point that serves Herndon, Reston and Great Falls.

ways appear like walls. The exercise impressed Lou Peon of Reston, who brought his two young children Parker and Mason. “This is our second time here. The smoke house was really interesting. You think you have more time than you do,” he said.

At Station 4 in the Town of Herndon Zain Baig, 5, of Herndon contemplated what Captain Robert W. Kitchen had just told him and his mother about fire spreading and the need for the household to make an exit plan and practice it. “I plan to go down the steps, to the door, exit outside, and meet at the

car,” said Zain.

Bryce Perry of the Town of Herndon reconsidered his ability to get himself and his family out of the home safely during a fire. Perry acknowledged the need to be more proactive. “This event is getting me thinking about how much we should be preparing. I think we will have a drill,” he said as he looked down at his two young sons, Ronan and Samuel.

According to Kitchen, there are approximately one-to-two house fires a day in Fairfax County.

FAIRFAX COUNTY RESIDENTS can get free battery-powered smoke alarms by contacting the local Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department station or by submitting the completed form found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/free-smoke-alarms. After the request is received, contact will be made to schedule a visit to the house or apartment, check current alarms, and install new ones. For more information, call 703-246-3801 or email fire.smokealarms@fairfaxcounty.gov.