

# Reston CONNECTION

## Legacy To Live On

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Artist Ben Volta talks with James Tafel Shuster as he paints panel edges to ensure color consistency of the massive Colts Neck Road Underpass mural in Reston.

## A Jewel With Uncomfortable Truths

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## Fire & Rescue Stations Host 2019 Open House

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OCTOBER 16-22, 2019

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NEWS

# A Legacy to Live On

Artist takes steps to ensure longevity of large-scale public art project.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

safeguards he took to protect the investment.

In the year 2060, older, middle-aged adults who participated in the design inspiration phase of the Colts Neck Road Underpass mural when they were elementary school-aged children will be able to walk with their adult children and grandchildren to experience a space transformed by bright color and the collaborative effect of 710 singular drawings, one theirs, added to a massive community art project covering the exterior facades and interior walls of the underpass. All thanks to the foresight of artist Ben Volta as he executed a work of public art to last generations.

Commissioned by Public Art Reston, Volta took calculated measures during the production phase of the community-inspired project finalized in 2019 to protect the mural panels against sun and element damage as well as vandalism. A few days before the Oct. 17 unveiling of the Public Artwork at Colts Neck Road Underpass, Volta shared in a one-on-one interview, key processes and materials essential in the successful creation of the paneled mural, and

INITIAL to the final design and large format printing, Volta conducted eight workshops according to a statement issued by Anne Delaney, Executive Director of Public Art Reston. The design phase involved students at Hunters Woods and Dogwood elementary schools and Southgate Community Center after school program. Volta also sought input from residents at the nearby senior living communities at Hunters Woods Fellowship House and Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, as well as the community at large. "More than 600 individuals realized 710 drawings that Volta incorporated into the design," wrote Delaney in a statement.

According to Volta, he constructed his mural from the inside out, beginning with Omega-Bond aluminum panels, extremely flat, durable and powder coated for optimal performance, especially against water.

He said he chose these due to the possible harsh conditions of the underpass tunnel where water could seep and penetrate toward the panels. When installed, he

SEE PUBLIC ART, PAGE 9

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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

**O**n 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.

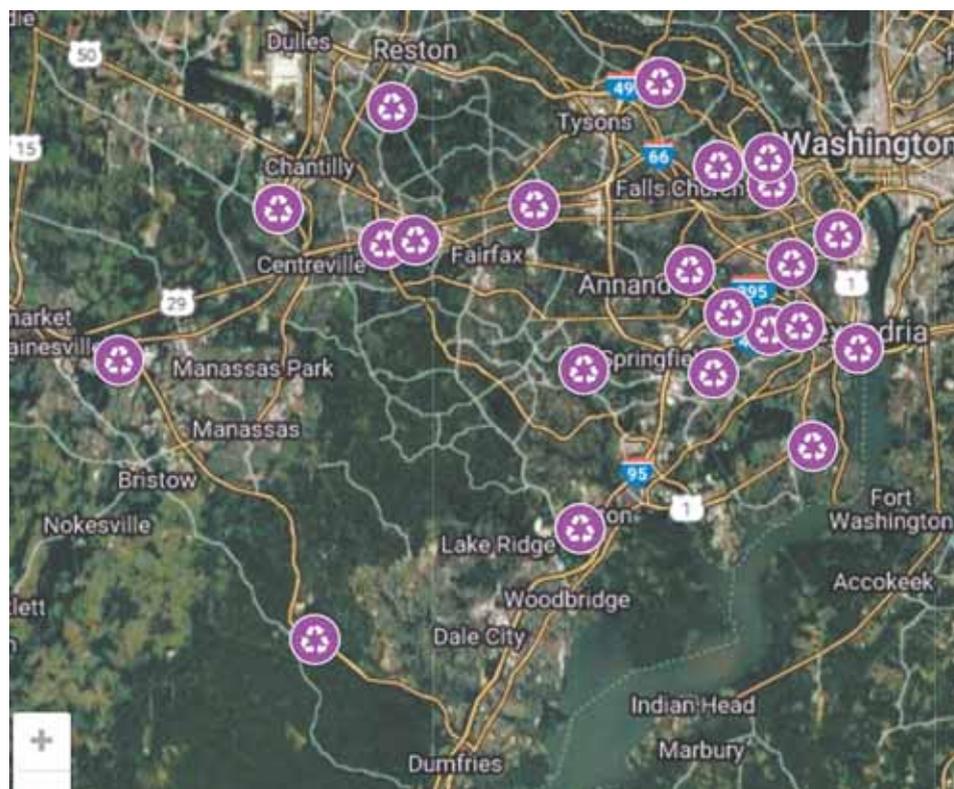
Glass collected from the purple containers will be delivered to the only glass processing plant in the area, the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton.

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

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4251 Eisenhower Ave  
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Tower Court & South Whiting Street

#### ARLINGTON COUNTY

2800 S Taylor St  
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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](http://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.

## Evolution of Women's Rights

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

**W**omen first came to the English colony at Jamestown Island in 1619—400 years ago, and hence their arrival is part of the American Evolution 1619-2019 commemoration going on throughout the Commonwealth. As with the other events that marked the historic significance of this year and that I have written about in this column, the real meaning of the events comes about in examining the decades and centuries that followed from 1619. There is no surprise that the land developers who were making investments in the new colony would advertise free voyage to women to come to this new land of potential opportunity and freedom from poverty and oppression they may have felt at home.

If the colony was to have success in developing economic opportunities and stability that families would bring, it needed women to come and find themselves adventure ... and a husband.

English women who came were not slaves although they no doubt had to work hard to



start a life and a home in the wilderness. If they came with an indenture to pay off their voyage fare, they could work off their obligation over a number of years. But just like in the society they left, even with the indenture paid off, women

were not free or in the same category as men. When Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence nearly a century and a half later, he proclaimed that "all men are created equal." We speculate that if he were writing a document today that he would say "all persons," but his writing at the time reflected women's lesser role in society. The story of women's rights continues to evolve even until today.

The capital of Virginia moved to Richmond in 1780, but it was not until this week that a memorial noting the contribution of women to the Commonwealth's history was finally dedicated on Capitol grounds. The twelve women chosen to be depicted as bronze statues in the Virginia Women's Monument repre-

sent women from all corners of the Commonwealth, both widely-celebrated women, as well as those with previously unknown but equally important stories. Many more women will be memorialized on the Wall of Honor and in the accompanying virtual educational modules. To get to know these women, most of whom I dare to say few have heard of, go to <http://womensmonument.com.virginia.gov/thetwelve.html>.

Also recognizing the struggle of women for their rights, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (TPSM) is building a national memorial to American suffragists—with a special focus on those imprisoned at Occoquan, who endured harsh conditions and abuse to win voting rights for American women. For more information on the women who led the suffragist movement and the hardships they endured, visit <https://suffragistmemorial.org/>. The nineteenth amendment ensuring women the right to vote was not ratified until 1920. Virginia rejected it in 1920 and did not vote for ratification until 1952.

A fitting tribute to Virginia women 400 years after their arrival would be passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by the General Assembly at its next legislative session.

## New RA Motto — 'Ya Gotta Spend Money To Make Money'

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

**O**n Thursday, Oct. 24, Reston Association will hold the hearing on its proposed 2020 budget. This is an opportunity to hear RA's CEO and his sidekick, the Board President, sing their theme song, "Ya gotta spend money to make a little money," and an opportunity to ask questions needing asking.

As you know dear reader, I am not a tight-fisted fiscal conservative. But I do insist that spending be justified based on need and competitive cost, and subject to strict accountability. Just three years ago, RA spending went out of control — remember the Tetra-Lake House scandal? Over \$3 million burned on its purchase (\$2.7 million) and a lavish rehab (\$650,000). Work was done with single-source contracts or none at all. Management



**INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE**

and financial controls collapsed. Results included departure of the CFO and dispirited Controller staff.

This Board seems intent on reversing all the progress that had been made by the Board that followed the debacle.

For starters, the CEO proposes another \$160,000 for "repurposing" the Lake House as a profit center for corporate meetings and big-ticket weddings. You might remember how RA sold Lake House to us: to serve community needs — e.g., camps for kids, a meeting place for community groups? No more. In fact, the CEO proposes buying a canvas yurt (\$25K) to accom-

modate young campers to be displaced from Lake House by high-end users. They may also need a swan boat or two and a dock. How else will brides and grooms be able to cross Lake Newport coming to, going from their weddings?

Presumably RA will reveal other profit-making schemes Oct. 24. The CEO also mentions perhaps offering tour boat excursions on Reston lakes and having food trucks nearby to serve visitors on the lakes or attending other entertainment possibly offered on Reston lakes or at tot lots. More ideas might emerge from a recent "branding survey" contracted by RA. Survey results are not public— that is, not available to those of us who paid for it nor to the Fiscal Advisory Committee whose mission is to advise the Board on RA finances, financial management and accountability. In fact, the Fiscal Committee was also barred, until a few

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 9

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Rescue Reston's Appreciation for Supervisor Catherine Hudgins

To the Editor:

The Rescue Reston community thanks Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins for her support of Reston's Recreational Green Open Space Golf Courses.

These large green open spaces have come under pressure from outside speculative developers ever since an unprecedented move in 2012. In

2015, Supervisor Hudgins strengthened the wording regarding Reston's two golf courses in the Comprehensive Plan for Reston, specifying them by names and tax map numbers\*. Both Reston National and Hidden Creek Golf Course properties "are planned for private recreation use, more specifically to remain as golf courses."

Supervisor Hudgins, we wish you well in your remaining

months representing us on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and hope you will enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

Private entities took a chance when they purchased Reston's two open space golf courses. The wording in the Comprehensive Plan is clear. They bought golf courses, and golf courses are what they shall remain.

Private investors stand ready

and willing to respect the Plan.

**Connie Hartke,**  
President  
Rescue Reston

*Working to save the green space at the 164-acre North Course, Hidden Creek Country Club, and at the South Course, Reston National Golf Course, a 166-acre Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Golf Course on the Chesapeake Bay watershed.*

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Published by  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mercia Hobson**  
Community Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Andrea Worker**  
Contributing Writer  
[aworker@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:aworker@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jean Card**  
Production Editor  
[jcard@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jcard@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)



# A Jewel With Uncomfortable Truths

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

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**H**erndon 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](http://www.CTB.Virginia.gov).

**Meeting Dates and Locations**  
Open House begins at 4 p.m. in each of the locations unless otherwise noted.

<b>Tuesday, October 15, 2019*</b> 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	<b>Tuesday, October 22, 2019**</b> Northern Virginia District Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 **meeting begins at 6 p.m.	<b>Monday, October 28, 2019***</b> Staunton District Doubletree Hotel Harrisonburg 1400 E. Market Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801 ***meeting begins at 3 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, October 30, 2019</b> Salem District Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive Roanoke, VA 24017	<b>Monday, November 4, 2019</b> Lynchburg District Lynchburg District Complex Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	<b>Wednesday, November 6, 2019</b> Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Office 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435
<b>Thursday, November 7, 2019</b> Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210	<b>Tuesday, November 12, 2019**</b> Fredericksburg District James Monroe High School 2300 Washington Avenue Fredericksburg, VA 22401 **meeting begins at 6 p.m.	<b>Wednesday, November 13, 2019</b> Culpeper District VDOT Culpeper District Office 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701

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](mailto:PublicComments@OIPI.Virginia.gov). **Comments will be accepted until November 30, 2019.**

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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

**F**rom princesses to superheroes, within the next two weeks, as Halloween ap-

proaches, 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 selec-

tion 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 Commu-

SEE KEEPING, PAGE 10

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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](http://herndonadrama.org).

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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.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:Ashleigh@reston.org) or call 703-435-6577 or visit [reston.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.unitedchristianparishartandcraftfair.com).

# Public Art Project Protected

FROM PAGE 2

would incorporate a “small gap” behind the panels for water to run down the concrete walls.

Volta said he lightly scuffed the panels with a 40 grit orbital sander to create a better bond, followed by coats of Golden Heavy Gel Adhesive. Next, he took the mural cloth, also known as PolyTab or parachute cloth, and applied a layer of Sherwin Williams Prep Rite Pro Block Primer, topped by coats of inkAID White Matte Precoat, creating a bright white surface ready for the printing and ink layer. To produce an outstanding quality graphic image, Volta printed the mural panel designs high resolution. He used Epson UltraChrome Archival inks with his Epson SureColor 20000 Edition printer. He then applied a protective layer of Golden Gel Topcoat w/UVLS (with ultraviolet light filters and stabilizers) to protect the printed art panels from fading and deterioration. “It’s a great surface that feels as if it’s painted,” Volta said. “Then, on top of the topcoat, we did at least two coats of Golden MSA Varnish with ultraviolet filters and light stabilizers for added protection.”



PHOTO BY MERGIA HOSSON

Artist Ben Volta.

that was part of the openness of the project...The artwork is about its collective energy and coming together... It’s about the experience, walking through it. Feel the color. Feel how it transformed the space.”

Delaney said: “Volta was inspired by Reston’s 55 miles of pathways and by a quote by the poet Henry David Thoreau: “Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.” He asked workshops participants to draw a path and then, in the spirit of Robert E. Simon Jr., Reston’s founder, to list “everything that you have seen or read about that is essential to your life and then add everything else that you can think of that makes living in Reston stimulating and worthwhile.” Access the Colts Neck Road Underpass Mural either by walking beside the path along Wells Fargo Bank, 2264 Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston, or beside the retirement community Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, 2222 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

For more information, visit [www.publicartreston.org](http://www.publicartreston.org).

**LOOKING BACK** on the entire process, Volta said, “The idea was that every drawing is included in the artwork. So when you walk through the tunnels, there are 710 drawings ... some are more expressive squiggles. All you really needed to participate in the project was to be able to draw a line to connect one side to the other, and

# Lovaas

FROM PAGE 4

days ago, from seeing a contracted compensation study with major cost implications. At the last minute, the Committee got a heavily redacted version of it.

Transparency is not a feature of RA’s new leadership.

So, what is driving this profit making as RA’s top priority, with service to its members in second place? The big cost drivers are a sizeable increase in staff and an across-the-board bump in staff salaries and benefits. A net increase of ten positions is proposed, four of whom will be social marketers in Communications, in addition to covenants enforcement staff. The sorely needed Chief Financial Officer position will be dropped. While salary increases at mid-lower pay levels may be justified, others are questionable, like six top dogs over \$125,000/year in our homeowners’ association. The increases plus “investments”

in new profit centers mean another assessment increase and dipping into cash reserves in 2020 and 2021. Surely there are some questions for Oct. 24 in this area.

One last little item. There are other costs staring Reston in the face in the future. Depending on which estimates you believe, we are going to have 30,000 to 50,000 more Reston residents using many of our community facilities in years to come — those living in high density developments in the rail corridor. There is no guarantee that any of these folks will be paying RA assessments. To date, only a couple of projects have agreed to some future assessment payments at a fraction of what we all pay. At present there is no RA policy, much less a priority, requiring pursuit of assessments from the tens of thousands of residents to come. Instead, RA is focused on weddings and swan boats. Hope to see all Thursday, Oct. 24!

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

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★ SHOW HIGHLIGHTS ★

THURSDAY OCT 24, 7PM  
Barn Night | “Halloween on Horseback”

FRIDAY OCT 25, 7PM  
Military Night | Puissance High Jump

SATURDAY OCT 26, 6:30PM  
World Cup Night | President’s Cup

Announcements

Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements

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# Keeping Children Safe on Halloween

FROM PAGE 6

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

**"The same basic rules of pedestrian safety also apply on Halloween. Cross the street in crosswalks, stay on the sidewalk ... 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

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

**Stanley "Stas" Sadowski Jr., 84**, of Leesburg, VA, born April 23, 1935, went home to be with The Lord on October 1, 2019. Visitation and funeral services were held Monday October 7, 2019, at Colonial Funeral Home, Leesburg, VA, from 10:00-11:00 am, with funeral services immediately following. Please see www.colonialfuneralhome.com for condolences and full obituary.

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

# BULLETIN

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.

## 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.

## 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](http://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](http://dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Parent Support Partners**, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

## ONGOING

**STEM Professionals Needed.** Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia**, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at [gronbiz@aol.com](mailto:gronbiz@aol.com) or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at [lynnieb517@verizon.net](mailto:lynnieb517@verizon.net).

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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 slow-sky, 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](http://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](mailto:fire.smokealarms@fairfaxcounty.gov).