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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.
**News**

**A Legacy to Live On**

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

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 safeguards he took to protect the investment.

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
No More Curbside Pickup for Glass

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

By Mercia Hobson

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, broken glass mixed 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 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=18v=v=N0toyRgHr_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 it 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)

Women first came to the English colony at Jamestown Island in 1619—400 years ago, and hence their arrival is part of the American Evolution 1619-2020 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 Virginia’s Women’s Monument represented 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

On 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 Money,” the New RA Motto. The Sheriff of Reston is703-778-9413
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INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

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 accommodate 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 permitting 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 local venues. 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 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 160-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.

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 years, and we will work together to save these courses for all Restonians to enjoy.

Rescue Reston

When tax-assessors view Reston’s Comprehensive Plan, in July 2016, they concluded the Comprehensive Plan is “a deliverable or a process directive.” The Rescue Reston community thanks Supervisor Hudgins for her support in keeping the Comprehensive Plan intact and the referenced courses for the benefit of all Restonians. The Rescue Reston community thanks Supervisor Hudgins for her consistent support of the Comprehensive Plan in its entirety.

For more information on the women chosen to be depicted as bronze statues, go to http://womensmonument.com.virginia.gov. 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.
H erndon High School Theatre presents 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 reading. “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 community. Cast reactions to staged reading of ‘Herndon Town,’ part of 2019 Herndon Arts Week.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

A Jewel With Uncomfortable Truths

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.
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 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 Advocates.

See Keeping, Page 10
Herndon High School student and cast member, Lulu Megahed of Reston performs her part in the staged reading of ‘Herndon Town’ by Kristen LePine as her sister, Meena and fellow cast member Isaiah Hagee wait for their cues.

“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

Herndon Town

“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 presented 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 herndondrama.org.
Together We Give
Weekend Food for Kids.
THURSDAY/OCT. 17
Fall Pumpkin Festival.
SATURDAY/OCT. 19
Indian Cooking: Indian Salads.
Runway to the Cure Fashion Show.
Pumpkin Carving for Kids. Children who are ages 3-8 are welcome to try their hand at carving a pumpkin. There will be a variety of shapes and sizes to choose from. All supplies are provided, and families are encouraged to dress up in costumes.

Ongoing
Jacks Pumpkin Grow.
Newly renovated and expanded throughout, Jack’s Pumpkin Grow is a true fall experience. Offering over 50 varieties of pumpkins, this is the perfect place to visit for all ages. The corn maze is open every weekend and the selective pumpkin picking allows visitors to take home their own pumpkin. The pumpkin patch is open daily from 10am to 6pm, and the farm store is open daily from 10am to 5pm. Visit https://www.jackspumpkincourt.com/ for more information.

Giant Food Community Bag Fundraiser.
Through Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Giant Food Store, 1495 main St., Leesburg. Giant’s Community Bag program has recently been expanded. This program has been selected to benefit Giant Food’s October Community Bag Program at the Reston location. Giant’s location will receive a $1 donation every time the $2.50 reusable Community bag is purchased.

Herndon Farmers Market.
Thursdays, through mid-November, 8 a.m. 12 noon at Historic Downtown Herndon, Lynn Street. Visit www.herndon-va.org/FarmersMarket for more.

Reston Farmers Market.
Saturdays, through Dec. 7, 8 a.m. noon at Lake Anne Village Center, 1469 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 100, Reston. GRACE presents the next chapter of the ode-automata series by Larson’s Centroid Towns project. Since the first US census in 1790, the United States Census Bureau has been recording the mean population of each community as it moves south. The first Centroid Town recorded was Chestertown, Maryland, and the projected Centroid Town for 2040 is 2021, in 2022, and 2023.

Tanpao, Missouri. Larson will dive deeper into the community’s changing landscape. The exhibit opens Thursday, November 4, 2010.

Friday Night Rush.
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Herndon. Free. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, assists community members in crisis. A Fall Festival, Parking A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Reston Historic Trust and Museum.

Ongoing
Herndon Homecoming Parade.
MONDAY/OCT. 21
Reston Photographic Society Meeting.
7:30-9:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunter’s Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Jeff Purnell will give 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.leaguerestonartists.org.

Sunday October 20, 2019
TUESDAY/OCT. 22
Documentary Screening.
7:30-9 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 12018 Ridgewood Dr., Purcellville. Free. A screening of the film “An Ending or a New Beginning” by Reston. The film is directed by Bob Coren. The one-hour documentary will be followed by a Q&A.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 23
Meatless Monday.
11 a.m. At Bow Tie Cinemas in Reston Town Center. Reston Association presents the feature film “Pom’s.” Reston Association invites you to enjoy the film prior to movie. Free to $55. Email: AnClearigh@reston.org

Food and Nutrition - Getting the Most from the Farmers Market.
2-3 p.m. at Reston Community Center, 12300 Spring Hill Road. 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.

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 us to find out about the changes ranging from the increased standard deductions, revamped exemptions, deductions and credits, and the tax brackets. The webinar will be taught by a financial advisor and a Certified Professional Accountant. This webinar is for educational purposes only, there will be no solicitation or sales of any kind.

Iberty Choir.
8 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, Reston. The Iberty Choir performs an eclectic program of popular pop and folk music featuring gorgeously rich, shifting blocks of harmony, memorable melodies, and captivating arrangements with combinations of voices that soar, falsetto soaring over growing basses and clarinet tenors.

THURSDAY/OCT. 24
Bernard Baruch Broadway.

OCT. 24-28
Washington West Film Festival.
At Bow Tie Cinemas in Reston Town Center. With films from across the United States, the festival will feature short films from Brazil, China, France, Japan, and other countries, this year’s lineup features one of the most cherished films in history. A highlight of the spotlight is the short film that tells the story of how an American woman moved to England to give her son a better education and hold meetings on the third Oktubr of the month. Visit the LRA website at www.leaguerestonartists.org.

Saturday, October 19, 2019
Mystery Murder Theatre.

OCT. 18-20
Farm Harvest Days. At Frying Pan Park, 2709 Woodbridge Dr., Herndon. Visit www.fryingpanpark.com. A fall festival for the whole family. Carnival Fun returns to the park for three days. Enjoy games, enjoy the festival, and enjoy the fall foliage. Admission and parking are free. Ride tickets are $1 each or $24 for four rides. Rides take three to five tickets each. Friday night only, unlimited ride wristbands available online or at the door. Great for a group or youth camp, team-building outing. Parking and admission is free. Call 703-437-9019 or visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fying-ping-park.

OCT. 18-21
Public Art Project Protected

Artist Ben Volta.

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, 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 with UVLS 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.”

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 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.

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!
Keeping Children Safe on Halloween

From Page 8

nity Safety at the National Safety Council. “Instead of masks that could obstruct their view 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.

“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
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. Barrentz, President and 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, Honors & 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.Poisuszy@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 Herndon Formmighty 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.

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 or 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, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donald.rea@gmail.com.


By KENNETH H. 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 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 very low. I was insufficient for the task at hand. Then I 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, Fata morgana.”

And remember it well as I remember other similar bulk-type purchases. Sometimes, being delineated, being positive about the negative and interferes in the most unusual way. When I buy things or make arrangements where the use goes someplace in the future, I’ll often wonder if I’ll still be alive to actually derive the benefit from this day’s commitment. As I walked through that day in the produce and paper market aisle, I was really looking for a two- or a three-pack, not an eight-pack, hesitant 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, no, nobody 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, Dmitry. I can invoke metaphorical Common turtles into the conversation. Nevertheless, at the end of the day (at the beginning, too), I may not be Sammy Davis Jr., but “I could be him.”

And me is someone who doesn’t throw caution anywhere, has never sworn at a torpedo and loves turtles, espouses the idea of having a great evening — Celebrate the impact of BSA Scouting in our area. Benefit BSA programs for boys and girls in North/West Fairfax County.
**News**

**Fire & Rescue Stations Host 2019 Open House**

Plan and practice your fire escape.

By Mercia Hobson

The Connection

“I n 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 aided 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, nearly 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 hallways 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.

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.

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.