

# Oak Hill Herndon **CONNECTION**

**WELLBEING**  
PAGE 6

Mayor Lisa  
Merkel of  
the Town  
of Herndon  
wish Maryana  
Gillette James,  
born, raised  
and still living  
in Herndon, a  
Happy 100th  
Birthday on  
Nov. 1, 2019.

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

## Happy 100th Birthday To Maryana Gillette James

NEWS, PAGE 4

### Election Day Morning In Herndon, Reston

NEWS, PAGE 3

### 'Matilda' Comes To NextStop Theatre

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9



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NOVEMBER 6-12, 2019

## NEWS

### Redistricting Forum Nov. 17

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area and OneVirginia2021 will hold a discussion on how to pass redistricting in Virginia in 2020. The event will take place on Nov. 17, 2019, 1-4 p.m., at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax.

Speakers include the following Virginia state legislators:

Sen. George Barker, Sen. Dave Marsden, Del. Karrie Delaney, Del. Mark Keam, Del. Kaye Kory, Del. Mark Sickles, Del. Mark Levine; Del. Ken Plum, Del. Ibraheem Samirah, Del. Marcus Simon and Del. Rip Sullivan, Jr.

Other participants include:

#### BULLETIN BOARD

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

### Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meetings in 2019

12000 Government Center Park-

Andre Parvenu, California Citizens Redistricting Commission; Brian Cannon, OneVirginia2021, Deb Wake, League of Women Voters of Virginia, and Wendy Fox-Grage, League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. This event is free and open to the public. Register at: [lwg2019.eventbrite.com](https://lwg2019.eventbrite.com)

Questions can be directed to: [PR@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:PR@lwv-fairfax.org).

*The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.*

way, Fairfax, VA 22035  
**Nov. 19, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting**  
 Nov. 26 Committee Meetings  
 ♦ 9:30 a.m. - Economic Advisory Commission  
 ♦ 11 a.m. - Personnel Committee  
 ♦ 1:30 p.m. - Legislative Committee  
 ♦ 3 p.m. - Budget Committee  
 ♦ 5 p.m. - Audit Committee  
**Dec. 3, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting**  
 Dec. 10 Committee Meetings  
 ♦ 9:30 a.m. - Health, Housing and Human Services Committee

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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# NEWS



A slow, steady stream of voters continued in the early voting hours at Precinct 320, Herndon #2, Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave.

## Twenty Line Up to Vote at 6 a.m.

### Snapshot of Precinct 320 Herndon #2

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

A steady stream of voters showed early Tuesday morning on Election Day 2019 at Precinct 320, Herndon #2, Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. "At 6 a.m., we had about twenty people lined up," said Chief Election Officer at the site, Len Halpern.

Outside the polling place, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) mingled with campaign workers and voters. "I think this election is important at the local and state levels. I also believe it is our opportunity to send a message that things must change at the national level," he said.

A member of Foust's campaign staff, Camila Alfonzo of McLean, joined him. "I feel it is important for us to be out here and encourage people to vote," she said.

Looking over the parking lot, Foust saw Virginia State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33) coming toward him.

Joining the conversation about why this election mattered, Boysko said, "This is our one opportunity to use our voices not only at the local level but also at the Federal level that we don't like what's hap-

pening in Washington." Voters continued to stream out of the meeting room turned polling place at a slow but steady rate. One of them, Ines Bello of Herndon, wore her running gear, with a flashlight on her hat. "We came to vote this early because we walk in the morning. I think all elections are important. I think of all the women who suffered for us, and I get very angry when women don't vote or don't do so because they don't like the candidates." Voters at Precinct 320, Herndon Community, considered candidates for Virginia State Senate District 33- Jennifer Boysko (D) (Incumbent) and Suzanne Fox (R); and candidate for Virginia House of Delegates District 86-Ibraheem Samirah (D) who ran unopposed.

As for Fairfax County, Sheriff Stacey Ann Kincaid faced Christopher F. De Carlo (R); Joseph G. Galdo (R) opposed Jeff McKay (D) for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. One school bond issue showed on the ballot for Fairfax County, \$360,000,000 to provide funds for "the costs of school improvements... for the Fairfax County public school system."

Asked how this year's turnout compared to other off-years, Chief Election Officer Halpern said, "The Election Board is looking at 50 percent turnout, which, compared to 30 percent at the last off-year, is significant. There's a lot of noise."

The Connection went to press while polling places were still open on Tuesday, Election Day. For results see [www.elections.virginia.gov/2019-election-results/](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/2019-election-results/) or [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)



Ines Bello of Herndon shows off her "I Voted" sticker.

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)



State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), Supervisor John Foust (D- Dranesville) and campaign worker, Camila Alfonzo of McLean on Election Day 2019 at Precinct 320, Herndon #2, Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Still dark outside so early in the morning, a light but steady stream of voters turn out in Reston at Polling Place Reston Community Center-Lake Anne 1609-A Washington Plaza

## Early Morning Voting: Turnout Light But Steady

### Snapshot of Precinct 222 Reston #3.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

A light but steady stream of voters showed early Tuesday morning for Election Day 2019 at Precinct 222, Reston Community Center-Lake Anne 1609-A Washington Plaza. Volunteers like Diane Palmintera had already set up information booths in the plaza parking lot.

Working in the dark, well before the first light peeked, Palmintera explained why she was out in the cold doing what she did.

"We need to flip both the Virginia House and Senate to the blue. All eyes of the nation are on Virginia," she said. "This will be the beginning of the blue wave." Palmintera stressed that so many things, such as gun violence prevention, education, health care, redistricting and the Equal Rights Amendment, were important in this election. "We must flip; it's important to send that message to the nation," she said. According to Fairfax County, Precinct 222 is in the districts of Supervisor Hunter Mill, Congressional 11, Senate 32 and Delegate 36.

At 6:01 a.m., Bob Millman of Reston, the first voter, showed in the parking lot. Inside the polling place, eight Election Officers waited. For Al Montgomery, this was his second year volunteering in the position. "We are here from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. or later until we are finished. There are eight of us, and we stay the whole day." Rick

Griffith, Assistant Chief Election Officer, said he'd been volunteering for eight years, Assistant Chief for three of the eight.

Chief Election Officer, Elizabeth Schreffler explained the importance of the service to her. "My foremothers fought and died to ensure I had the right to vote. I do this to honor their sacrifice."

Voters continued to slowly stream in during the first minutes after the poll opened. They stood ready to cast their ballots in the off-year election, some focused on the state Senate election, 32nd District between Arthur G. Purves (R) and Janet D. Howell (D) and the Virginia House of Delegates, 36th District although the only name on the ballot for this district was Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D).

One school bond issue showed on the ballot for Fairfax County, \$360,000,000 to provide funds for "the costs of school improvements... for the Fairfax County public school system."

According to Election Officials present at Polling Place Reston Community Center-Lake Anne 1609-A Washington Plaza, approximately 150 voters received absentee ballots, and they anticipated 2,300 voters in the precinct.

Shortly before 6:15 that morning, the Borland family of Reston entered the polling place. Sean held baby Olivia, 17 months, while mom, Emily, got out her license to exchange for the blue County of Fairfax Voting Permit. She would present it to an election officer and obtain her ballot. Asked why they were at the polls so early, Sean chuckled and replied, "Baby Olivia woke up early and couldn't wait to vote."

# NEWS



**At her 100th birthday celebration held at First Baptist Church of Herndon, loved ones surround Maryana Gillette James, born Nov. 1, 1919, on Grace Street in the Town of Herndon and who for the next century maintained a Herndon address while making the community a better place to live because of her contributions.**



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Pastor Sean Roberds of the First Baptist Church of Herndon and Maryana Gillette James on the occasion of her 100th birthday, while attending Proclamation Presentation in her honor at the Herndon Municipal Center.**

## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Maryana Gillette James of Herndon

**Good life involves God, family, church and chocolate.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**urning 100 years old is one of the most significant milestone birthdays. How the Town of Herndon's newest centenarian, achieved it involved God, family, community and chocolate. To mark the special birthday occasion for Maryana Gillette James, born Nov. 1, 1919, in the Town of Herndon and still residing there a century later, family, friends and her church family kicked off a two-day surprise celebration.

The festivities began with the presentation of a "Mayoral Proclamation Recognizing Maryana Gillette James Day, November 1, 2019." Held in the Herndon Municipal Center, James' pastor, Sean Roberds of First Baptist Church of Herndon, spoke first and addressed James personally. "It is an incredible honor to be your pastor. You are a saint...you have been here for this entire community and me, and I am thankful we can be a part of this celebration." Mayor Merkel joined Roberds, and with James by her side, family, friends, councilmembers and town staff listened as Merkel presented the proclamation to the town's newest centenarian, born on Grace Street in Herndon when the town was part of the local dairy community.

"Throughout her life, she has kept a long-standing connection to the Town of Herndon and the surrounding area. She grew up in Herndon, always maintained a Herndon address and currently resides on Van Buren Street. In 1936, James graduated from Herndon High School. Mrs. James worked for the Fairfax County School Board



**Herndon's mayor, Lisa Merkel, prepares to read "Mayoral Proclamation Recognizing Maryana Gillette James Day, Nov. 1, 2019" to James, who over the past 100 years, not only witnessed changes in the town but was an integral part of the community.**

for 25 years and was a secretary to the principal of Herndon High School when she retired," Merkel read. James' father, Edgar Eugene Gillette, was mayor from 1925-1929, and her husband, Graham M. James, Jr., mayor from 1957 to 1961, added Merkel.

"Over the past 100 years, Maryana Gillette James has witnessed a lot of changes in the town. She is an integral part of the Herndon community, and Herndon is a better place because of her contribu-

tions. Therefore, the Mayor of the Town of Herndon, Virginia, hereby proclaims November 1, 2019, as Maryana Gillette James Day in the Town of Herndon, and thanks her for being an excellent representation of the Herndon community," said Merkel. After the presentation Merkel turned to James, "You know, it's never too late for you to run for mayor," she said.

Later, when asked for her advice on how best to live a long and happy life, James responded, "First, have faith in God; sec-



ond, be loved by family, many friends and a strong church family; third, have a happy marriage with loving memories, and fourth, eat lots of chocolate, little sugar and a few leaves of spinach each day."

Congratulations and special memories poured in from family and friends present at the Proclamation Ceremony and during James' 100th Birthday Celebration held at First Baptist Church of Herndon the next day.

SEE VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 5

[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## VIEWPOINTS

### Community Members About Maryana Gillette James

**Sean Roberds, Pastor at First Baptist Church of Herndon, praised Maryana Gillette James "first, for her dedication to a life of faith; second, for still counting the money for the church and attending worship every week and third, for the way she welcomed my youngest son, Eli, into her adult Sunday school class."**



**Richard Downer:** "Ms. James' husband, Graham James, was my first partner. He and Bill Hoofnagle hired me in the late 1960s to be the insurance man of Herndon Realty & Insurance. It is a pleasure to see Ms. James again and help her celebrate her 100th birthday."

**Linda Dhar, Sunday school teacher:** "I met Maryana when she was in her 70s. At that time, you had to move out of the way. She walked so fast. Twenty-five years later, it hasn't changed. She's still quick on her feet."



**Lody Ashwell:** "I have known Maryana since 1956. She has been a very special friend and one of the most loving ladies I have ever known."



**Todd and Linda Weiss:** "We can't begin to say all we feel about Maryana-for over thirty years she's been an inspiration to all."



**K Scarry:** "Maryana has been my friend my whole life. She made me my baby quilt when I was born."

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Presents

## ***Everything Christmas Sale***

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**Saturday Nov 9 8:30 am-noon**

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## **WELLBEING**

# **Diffusing Holiday Drama**

**Sanity-saving strategies to get us through the not-so-silent holiday nights.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
 THE CONNECTION

**L**ater this month, Thanksgiving will usher in the holiday season, family gatherings and expectations of celebrations that are reminiscent of Currier and Ives-type scenes. For those who deal with difficult family members be they cousins, siblings, in-laws or outlaws, the most wonderful time of year can be met with dread. Having a few sanity-saving strategies can help get us through the not-so-silent holiday nights.

"Often, those closest to us can unfortunately spark the most amount of stress" said Nathan Leslie, Professor of Creative Writing at Northern Virginia Community College and author of the book "Hurry Up and Relax."

Focusing on one's own behaviors and responses rather than those we find difficult can offer a sense of empowerment "That's because in the end you cannot control how anyone else acts during this time, or ever," said Lorente. "The only thing that you really can control is how you react and respond to different people and situations. Being aware of your behavior and changing your mindset might be the best — and only way to survive the holiday drama this season."

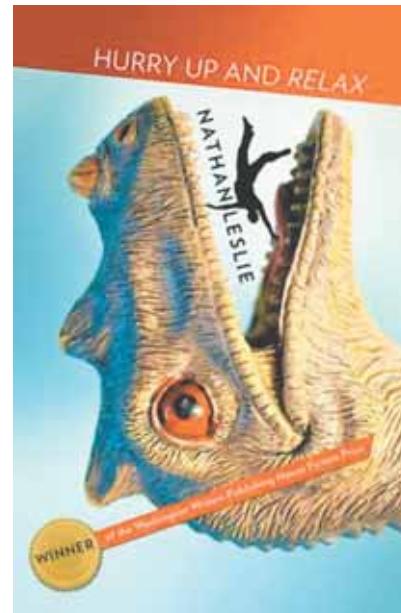
Whether it's a feeling of obligation or hope for holiday cheer, before you head over the river and through the woods, know the reason for your trip. "First know why you are choosing to be around family members who might be difficult," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "This helps you to take ownership and control of the situation. I think that a lot of the negative feelings stem from feeling out of control, obligated, and frustrated."

Setting boundaries and having an exit strategy can be sanity-saving. "[For example,]" "when we start talking about topics such as my parenting style, or my politics, or my hair, I will leave the room," said Lorente. "Not with anger but with a sense that I am control of me not of my family member."

A family ally can offer support or an exit strategy if family gatherings turn sour. "You can even develop a code word or phrase you can say to prompt your ally to intervene, politely interrupt, or help you get out of the situation promptly," said Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Montgomery College. "A family ally is also a good person to have for support."

For those who know that difficult family situations are unavoidable, set time limits. "Plan ahead to organize your time spent in this situation, and avoid staying at family members' homes if your relationship is challenging," said Bagshaw. "Also, structure your time, make sure there's not a lot of downtime that can lead to awkward conversations."

Choosing to give attention to the positive aspects of one's familial relationships can help diffuse tension, suggests Lorente. "Focus on gratitude, fun, and the good things that this time may bring," she said. "You and your Mom may not agree on certain adult issues but look at what a great grandmother she is to your children."



COURTESY OF NATHAN LESLIE

**Nathan Leslie, author of the book, "Hurry Up and Relax," says journaling can help relieve stress during the holidays.**

**"Focus on gratitude, fun, and the good things that this time may bring."**

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D Northern Virginia Community College

Putting pen to paper can help relieve stress. "Journaling is an excellent way to relieve stress and make sense out of chaos," said Leslie. "Writing...can be useful in giving mental order to the disorientation that the holidays might bring."

Visualize family events going well. Positive thoughts lead to positive feelings, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University.

"Be curious instead of critical," he said. "Wonder how others are thinking and feeling, and why," said Short. "Give others the benefit of the doubt."

"Wait before speaking if you have negative thoughts," continued Short. "Take a deep breath, visualize a favorite place, or walk away if you might regret what you say in the moment."

# News

**State Sen. Jennifer Boysko presents the Virginia General Assembly commendation to Food For Neighbors, represented by dedicated volunteer Christa Soltis.**

PHOTO BY ROBERT MAXWELL



## Food For Neighbors Receives Recognition at the State Level

**F**ood For Neighbors recently received a visit from State Sen. Jennifer Boysko, who presented the nonprofit with an official commendation from the Virginia General Assembly. The General Assembly recognized Food For Neighbors for its efforts in combating hunger, more specifically, for providing Fairfax and Loudoun County students with a more reliable source of food.

"I thank Senator Boysko and other State leadership for this important expression of support," said Food For Neighbors founder Karen Joseph. "I'm thrilled that the Food For Neighbors message is reaching more people, and, with the help of many dedicated volunteers, I hope to see the program continue to expand."

An all-volunteer charity, Food For Neighbors has rapidly grown from serving more than 100 students at Herndon Middle School and Herndon High School, to serving nearly 1,000 students weekly.

The program now supports additional schools in Fairfax County, including Irving, Key, Jackson, Whitman, and Carl Sandburg Middle Schools as well as West Springfield, Lee, Bryant, Mountain View, West Potomac, and Mount Vernon High Schools. The program has moved into nearby Loudoun County schools including Sterling Middle School, Park View High School, River Bend Middle School, and Potomac Falls High School.

Food For Neighbors also provides supplemental food to Langston Hughes Middle School and the South Lakes High School food pantry.

Food For Neighbors thanks all of its community partners, sorters, drivers, and food contributors, who leave donations on their doorsteps in the well-known Red Bags for collection just a few times per year. To learn more and get involved, visit <https://www.foodforneighbors.org/get-involved/>. Hunger is closer than you think.

## Pack the Pantry at South Lakes vs. Herndon Football Game

**T**he football game of the season, South Lakes High School vs. Herndon High School, will be held at South Lakes High School on Friday, Nov. 8.

The game will start at 7 p.m.

Pack the Pantry event will also take place on this night to benefit the food pantries at both schools. Non-perishable donations will be accepted from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at both entrances to the stadium

at South Lakes High School. Please help your neighbor and donate the following items: cereal, oatmeal, boxed milk, juice boxes, peanut butter, jelly, granola, breakfast and protein bars, fruit cups, applesauce, ramen, cup of noodles. There is a real need in the community.

Currently, South Lakes High School Food Pantry is helping with the needs of the community in assisting more than 200 families per week.

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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

**Season Extended at Farmers Market.** On Saturdays, take advantage of the extended season until Dec. 7 at the Reston Market located at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza. You can preorder fresh produce, meats, cheese, pies, and eggs for the holidays or stop by for fresh produce, bread, and honey. Contact the Community Horticulture Office at 703-642-0128 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

### A Gentlemen's Guide to Love & Murder.

Through Nov. 9 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: November 1, 2, 3\*, 8, 9. Starts 8 p.m. (\*2 p.m. matinee). Tickets: are \$28/adult; \$24/seniors and students. Visit [www.restonplayers.org](http://www.restonplayers.org) or 703-476-4500 x3.

**Murder Mystery Theatre.** 6:30-9:30 p.m., through Nov. 9 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. As passengers begin to mysteriously die, the famed detective must walk in the steps of the pharaoh to find a murderer most foul! Email: [info@stagecoachtc.com](mailto:info@stagecoachtc.com). Visit [stagecoachtc.com/murder-on-the-british-express/](http://stagecoachtc.com/murder-on-the-british-express/).

### 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 Mission.

Through Nov. 16, at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum invites you to 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 courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service: Destination Moon. Visit [www.restonmuseum.org](http://www.restonmuseum.org).

**Quilt Exhibit.** Through Nov. 16, Tuesdays thru Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. At Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum at Route 28 and Route 7 in Claude Moore Park, Sterling. This exhibit showcases a selection of quilts on loan from the Waterford Quilter's Guild, Countryside Quilters, the Reston Chapter of Quilters Unlimited, and a vintage quilt from the Loudoun Museum. Visit [www.heritagfarmmuseum.org](http://www.heritagfarmmuseum.org).

**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)

**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 information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon).

**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.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 6

**Tag Day Concert.** 7 p.m. At Herndon High School, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon. The Herndon High School Band's Tag Day Concert will feature Symphonic Winds as well as the Wind Ensemble doing a tribute to the Apollo 11 Launch, and the marching band will play their final time through this year's show called Heroes. This event will also include a wrap up of the band's trip to Normandy, France, last June for the D-Day 75th Anniversary. Some of the highlights are:

- ♦ A presentation of USS Herndon artifacts to the

**The Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race will take place on Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon.**



**Mosby Men, 1865 — The Reston Historic Trust & Museum is hosting local author Barbara Glakas who will be speaking about Herndon and pre-Reston history on Wednesday, Nov. 13.**



Herndon Historical Society;

- ♦ A video presentation highlighting the various ways that the Pride of Herndon honored WWII veterans at the 75th anniversary of D-Day, especially the crew of the USS Herndon, the lead ship of the Allied armada;
- ♦ Proclamation by the Town of Herndon to be presented by Councilmember Jennifer Baker. Email: [communications@herndonband.org](mailto:communications@herndonband.org).

**Author Dr. Azar Nafisi.** 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Iranian-American best-selling author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Azar Nafisi has electrified readers with a compassionate and often harrowing portrait of the Islamic revolution in Iran and how it affected one university professor and her students. \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or call 703-476-4500.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 7

**Author Dr. Charles Thomas Jr.** 6 p.m. At Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Featuring *Best Kept Secrets: From Invisible Walk-Ons to Life Champions*. The book was written by an athlete for athletes and those with an athletic or personal development mindset. It's a book by a walk-on, for walk-ons, about walk-ons, and the power that we possess to move from feelings of invisibility to life champions. Meet the man who went from a walk-on at Notre Dame to CEO, to best-selling author and radio host.

**Alzheimer's Early Detection.** 7-8 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. At this interactive workshop presented by the Alzheimer's Association, National Area Chapter, you will learn the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's disease and why early detection is crucial. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events>

### FRIDAY/NOV. 8

**Ice Skating Season Begins.** At Reston Town Center, Ice Skating Pavilion, Reston. Rock the Rink on Fridays, 8-10 p.m. Includes DJ music, games and prizes until 10 p.m.; skating continues until 11 p.m. Cartoon Skate is Saturdays, Nov. 9 until March 7, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Share the ice with cartoon characters. College Night is Thursdays, Nov. 14 until March 5, from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Receive \$2 off admission with valid college ID. Call 703-709-6300 or visit [www.restontowncenter.com/](http://www.restontowncenter.com/) skating.

### NOV. 8-9

**Everything Christmas Sale.** Friday 3-7 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m. to noon At First Baptist Church of Herndon, 681 Elen Street, Herndon.

becoming the first immigrant, first draftee, and first Officer Candidate School graduate to hold the position.

**Sideline Band Performs.** 7 p.m. At Bluegrass Barn at Frying Pan Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Tickets are \$18/advance; \$20/door. IBMA Award-winners, Sideline, will perform in Herndon. Visit [www.sidelinebg.com](http://www.sidelinebg.com) or call 703-437-9101

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13

**Author Barbara Glakas.** 7 p.m. At Jo Ann Rose Gallery, RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza North, Reston. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum is hosting local author Barbara Glakas who will discuss her new book *Hidden History of Herndon* as well as pre-Reston history. Behind Herndon's past as a sleepy farming community hide forgotten tales of growth and progress. All programs of the Reston Historic Trust & Museum are supported in part by Reston Community Center. Email: [info@restonmuseum.org](mailto:info@restonmuseum.org).

### THURSDAY/NOV. 14

**Art Show and Sale.** 3-6 p.m. At Waltonwood at Ashburn, 44141 Russell Branch Pkwy., Ashburn. Join in an afternoon of drinks, appetizers, live music and wonderful artwork. This event is free and open to the public. There will be a \$5 dollar suggested donation at the door. All proceeds from the event and art sales will benefit Insight Memory Care Center. RSVP: Register online, or contact Dana Rizzo at 703-967-4777 or [dana.rizzo@singhmail.com](mailto:dana.rizzo@singhmail.com).

**Author Michael Klare.** 7 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, Reston. Will discuss his book, *All Hell Breaking Loose: The Pentagon's Perspective on Climate Change*. Of all the major institutions in American society, none take climate change as seriously as the U.S. military. Renowned security expert Michael Klare shows that the U.S. military sees the climate threat as imperiling the country on several fronts at once. While others still debate the causes of global warming, the Pentagon is intensely focused on its effects. Its response makes it clear that where it counts, the immense impact of climate change is not in doubt.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 15

**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).

### Career Diplomacy: Life and Work in the U.S. Foreign Service.

2 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, Reston. Featuring talks by authors Harry W. Kopp and John K. Naland. *Career Diplomacy* is an insider's guide to the U.S. Foreign Service as an institution, a profession, and a career. Now in its third edition, the guide provides an up-to-date, authoritative, and candid account of the life and work of professional U.S. diplomats, who advance and protect this country's national security interests around the globe.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 16

**Turkey Train.** 9 a.m. to noon. At Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Engine #62 of the Resources Railroad will be making the rounds at Lake Fairfax Park as part of a seasonal program. See how Eastern Woodland Indians hunted and how their tools were made. Create your own Thanksgiving-themed craft to take home. Cost is \$10 per person. The Fairfax County Park Authority also will be collecting non-perishable food to be donated to a local food bank. Call 703-471-5414 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax).

**ArtSplash.** 2 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Create your own colorful masterpiece in this painting workshop for adults led by artists from Abrakadoodle NOVA.

**Wellness Class for Adults.** 2 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Join us to learn exercises and best practices for a healthy body and mind. Adults, Teens.

### NOV. 16-17

**"Matilda The Musical."** 7 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Based on the beloved Roald Dahl novel, *Matilda* is the story of an extraordinary little girl who decides to fight back against tyrannical adults. Evan Hoffmann directs with Elisa Rosman as Music Director and Nicole Maneffa as Choreographer. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org/shows/matilda/](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org/shows/matilda/)

## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Matilda' Comes to NextStop Theatre

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**B**ased on the treasured Roald Dahl novel about an extraordinary young girl who decides to fight back against the domineering adults in her life, including her parents and her school's headmistress named Miss Trunchbull. "Matilda" is a Tony Award winning musical entertainment for the whole family. "Over the past six years, we have developed a tradition of producing a major family musical during the holiday season," said Evan Hoffmann, NextStop Artistic Director. "When I found out that 'Matilda' was becoming available, I jumped on it as fast as I could. This is an amazing musical and a story that I have always loved."

"First and foremost, we call it family friendly because this story really has something for all ages," added Hoffmann. "It is a great theatrical experience to share with your whole family."

"I love having young performers in our show. I believe strongly in the need to expose young people to theater," said Hoffmann. "However, I also firmly believe that young actors can frequently give some of the most compelling and authentic performances. The twelve young actors in our production are a perfect example of that."

For "Matilda" there are two different full



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEXTSTOP THEATRE

Jane Keifer and Katelyn Marsh portray Matilda in the NextStop Theatre production of "Matilda."

### Where and When

NextStop Theatre Education Program Production of "Matilda" at 269 Sunset Drive Park, Sunset Beach Park, Herndon. Performances Nov. 14 to Dec. 22, 2019. Thursdays, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5, 2019 at 7 p.m. Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturday Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. is currently sold out. Saturday Nov. 23 and Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Dec. 1 and Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. with Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Sunday Nov. 17 at 2 p.m., Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Dec. 1 and Dec. 8 at 2 p.m., Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. with Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$40-\$55. (NextStop strongly encourages booking in advance. Ticket prices increase as performances get nearer and fill up). For tickets call: 866-811-4111, or visit [www.NextstopTheatre.org](http://www.NextstopTheatre.org). Note: NextStop has a limited quantities available of a Family 4 Pack. Buy 3 Get 1 Free with code "NextStopFam." There is a limit one 4-pack per patron per performance. For details visit [www.NextstopTheatre.org](http://www.NextstopTheatre.org).

casts of young actors in the production. The two separate casts will alternate performing during the run of "Matilda" at NextStop.

Driving "Matilda" are nearly two dozen songs with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin with orchestration and additional music by Chris Nightingale. For veteran musical director Elisa Rosman, "Matilda" is 100 percent energy. The musical numbers are actually wildly varied to fit the storytelling needs. For example, we go from fun fair ground music to really uplifting ballads to energizing revolution."

Rosman will lead a live band with instruments including keyboards, drums, bass, trumpet and a reed musician on flute, clarinet and saxophone and one trumpet player. Examples of "Matilda" songs include two "at opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of mood," noted Rosman. The two are the sweeter "When I Grow Up" and the more militant "Revoltting Children."

"I find them both to be almost anthems of empowerment and resilience."

"Matilda" has great music, wonderful characters, awesome production numbers, and a sense of magic and wonder that makes it a remarkable evening of entertainment," added Hoffmann.

The musical "Matilda" at NextStop is a magical story about a courageous, imaginative young girl who discovers how powerful she can become.

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

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[lostdogandcatrescue.org](http://lostdogandcatrescue.org)

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## Employment

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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

## Announcements

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## Announcements

# NEWS



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Reston Artist Dana Scheurer who designed "Bailey's Crossroads Community Mural," for Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing in Falls Church joins mural installer, Brian King, owner of Artifice, Inc. in Arlington at the mural's unveiling on Oct 24.

## Reston Artist's Newest Mural — A Power House "Bailey's Crossroads Community Mural" unveiled.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Reston artist Dana Scheurer is known for her many commissions and installations, among them "The Midtown Community Mural" on New Dominion Parkway in Reston Town Center, Public Art Installation — Bicycle Racks at Walker Nature Center and Lobby Installations — The Jordan in Arlington, Acing Baltimore office, The Serrano, Jackson's Crossing and The Woodbury Apartments according to the artist's website.

After the Oct. 24 ribbon-cutting for the new Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing, located at 5914 Seminary Road in Falls Church, the public had its first opportunity to view Scheurer's latest and perhaps her most compelling work, "Bailey's Crossroads Community Mural," designed for Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing in Falls Church. The shelter is the first of its kind in Fairfax County, a bright, 21st-century model offering 52 emergency beds for single adults including four medical respite beds, 18 permanent supportive "micro-units," an acute care facility, garden area and more.

According to Scheurer, Brian King who owns Artifice, Inc. in Arlington installed her design, with a bit of assistance from her, in the garden of the facilities' community dining room. The public can best see the community mural not from ground level, but down in the protected space accessed through the shelter, Scheurer shared. "This has been another great experience in painting for me. Very different from the original watercolor on paper," said Scheurer. "The process is amazing."

**LIKE HER OTHER WORKS**, whether mural, watercolor or exclusive limited edition, the well-saturated colors of the Bailey's mural depict significant events in surrealistic architectural and geometric structures, as well as symbols set in history according to Scheurer. The mural is whimsical, a visual architectural narrative, "charging into the 21st century," she described it; a journey for shelter residents, guests, and the public to peruse.



CONTRIBUTED BY DANA SCHEURER

Partial close-up of "Bailey's Crossroads Community Mural," located at Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing in Falls Church.

A significant incident occurred in November 1861 that the New York Daily Tribune referred to as "The Great Review at Bailey's Crossroads recounted Scheurer. "Over 75,000 Union troops were reviewed by President Lincoln and approximately 75,000 spectators. Included in this assemblage was Julia Ward Howe, who credited the impressions made on her this day in part with her eventual penning of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic ...The mural contains images of historical markers that depict numerous events. The area was a large federal encampment and depicted in the mural is recognition of the earliest uses of observation balloons for intelligence purposes by the nation's first aeronaut, Thaddeus Lowe," said Scheurer.

The mural's precise forms and lines mesmerize the viewer and tell a somewhat whimsical story of Bailey's Crossroads. The shapes converge and overlay, with history moving left to right. "One of the more current significant icons of the urban transition at Bailey's presented in the mural is Skyline Towers, built on the site of the old Washington/Virginia airport that provides homes to hundreds of families and is the symbol of the modern and future Bailey's that will continue to grow and prosper," said Scheurer.

**AFTER THE RIBBON-CUTTING**, Scheurer and King pointed out a specific block in the mural, one to the far right. It would be something for residents and guests at Bailey's Shelter to aspire, "a place so important to us all," hinted Scheurer.

NOTICE OF OLD DOMINION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND ITS MEMBER DISTRIBUTION COOPERATIVES TO SEEK WAIVER OF CERTAIN PURPA OBLIGATIONS FROM THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Take notice that on or after December 2, 2019, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) intends to file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) a Petition requesting waiver of certain obligations in FERC's rules implementing Section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA), on behalf of itself and the following ODEC member distribution cooperatives which are regulated by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (VSCC): A&N Electric Cooperative, BARC Electric Cooperative, Community Electric Cooperative, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, Prince George Electric Cooperative, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, and Southside Electric Cooperative (collectively, the "Members").

The Petition will request waiver of FERC's regulations to allow ODEC and the Members to jointly implement their respective obligations under Section 210 of PURPA and under Part 292 of the FERC's regulations, 18 C.F.R. Part 292, as set forth in the PURPA Implementation Plan between ODEC and its member distribution cooperatives. PURPA Section 210 was enacted to encourage production of electric energy by qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities (QFs). Part 292 of FERC's Regulations sets forth the requirements regarding arrangements between electric utilities and QFs. Part 292 requires electric utilities to purchase and sell energy and capacity from and to QFs. The PURPA Implementation Plan provides that (1) any QF may interconnect with the electric distribution systems of ODEC's Members or to ODEC's transmission system to the extent such QF is entitled to interconnection under Part 292 of the Commission's Regulations; (2) ODEC will purchase capacity and energy from QFs with a net capacity in excess of 100 kW and up to 20 MW as made available by such QFs, at ODEC's avoided cost; (3) each of the Members will sell supplementary, back-up and maintenance power to QFs on a firm or interruptible basis, upon request, at rates that are non-discriminatory, just and reasonable, and in the public interest; and (4) no QF will be subject to duplicative charges for interconnection or wheeling as a result of selling to ODEC and buying from a Member. By Order issued on August 9, 2019, in its Case No. PUR-2019-0047, the VSCC granted ODEC's motion for authorization to state that the VSCC endorses the Petition with respect to the Members.

Copies of the PURPA Implementation Plan will be sent to interested parties upon request. FERC will publish notice of the Petition in the Federal Register following receipt of the filing. That notice will specify that any person desiring to be heard in this matter can make the appropriate filing with the FERC.

Inquiries or comments concerning this matter should be addressed to:  
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative • 4201 Dominion Boulevard •  
Glen Allen, VA 23060 • (804) 968-4021 • Attn: General Counsel

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

# BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 2

- ❖ 11 a.m. - Development Process Committee
- ❖ 1:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
- ❖ 3 p.m. - General Assembly Annual Reception and Work Session

## MONDAY/NOV. 11

**Veteran's Day Ceremony.** 11 a.m. At Town Herndon Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. The Wayne M Kidwell American Legion Post 184 will sponsor the Veterans Day Ceremony. The guest speaker will be Christopher Baity, President of Semper K9 Assistance Dogs. Baity is an OEF/OIF veteran Marine Corps dog trainer and kennel master with three combat deployments, one civilian deployment and two additional overseas deployments with working dogs. He has over 18 years of dog training and handling experience. Currently a Certified Dog Trainer (CDT), evaluator and service dog instructor, Baity is proficient in animal behavior, obedience training, and kennel management.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 14

**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.

## 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).

## MONDAY/NOV. 25

**27th Annual Ethics Day.** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Sheraton Reston, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. In 1992, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and South Lakes High School established a partnership to take the entire South Lakes senior class to the Sheraton Reston where they spend the day learning about ethical decision making and how it will affect their adult lives. Using a series of four complex, real-life scenarios, students are asked to review, discuss and reach ethical decisions for each scenario. To learn more, contact Alicia Field, Events and Development Director, at 703-707-9045 or [aliciaf@restonchamber.org](mailto:aliciaf@restonchamber.org).

## 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).

**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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## Please Relief Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or let me go. So sang Engelbert Humperdinck way back in 1967 about having lost that loving feeling. His lost loving feeling was not about his mortgage. The lyrics: "I have found a new love dear" imply if not clearly state that there's a woman involved. My lost loving feeling is about my mortgage. And contrary to Engelbert, I can't leave it, and believe me, I've tried, though I've never sung about it, only droned on about it in print. To invoke the legendary Ricky Ricardo, aka Desi Arnaz, from "I Love Lucy," originally broadcast in the mid- to late-50s: Let me 'splain.

It's been over 15 years since my last successful refinance. Twice in the intervening years I've tried to refinance. In each case, I've been denied even though I've had upwards of 50 percent equity and an 800 or so credit rating.

Between multiple problems with the house (lead paint on the exterior, broken windows, etc.) and less than ideal income documentation, debt to income ratio, yada, yada, yada, we've regularly been kicked to the curb, which we also don't have, so I gave up; and have proceeded over the years to fix some of the problems mentioned which unfortunately has not led to an acceptable resolution.

Time has passed, and after years of television advertisements by Henry Winkler, Fred Thompson and most recently, Thomas Magnum himself: Tom Selleck, promoting reverse mortgages for those nearing retirement, I buckled under the pressure of these years of paid celebrity endorsements and made a few inquiries. It turns out that given my age — and circumstances semi-unique to us (no kids, lots of equity, need the money), we're perfect candidates. So we applied to company number one (denied) which led to company number two: denied. The second time the denial was not about income documentation and so forth as it was with the first "reverse-mortgager." No. It wasn't even about the house. This time it was about an out-building on our property, specifically the foundation of a "shed"/stable standing derelict in its duties and of no use to anyone. Not however of 'no use' to the appraiser, apparently, who mentioned its condition in his report to the mortgage underwriter who now has because of those findings, slam-dunked us (put our application on hold) pending the shed's disposition.

To summarize and recall another legendary figure from the 50s: author Joseph Heller, I'm in a bit of a "Catch-22." I can't refinance the house and get access to its equity because I can't meet the financial qualifications. And I can't reverse-mortgage the house — to gain access to the equity I need to live on, because the out-building on my property ("Belly Acres" as I call it) is a shell of its former self, so to speak, and needs upwards of \$100,000 of repairs (I've gotten an estimate), money that if I had/ could even get to, I'd need to live on, not spend on a building I'll never use/don't need. And neither can I sell the house (nor do we want to quite frankly) because the "shed" would be part of any deal, which means its repair would still be required. And one more thing, because the house is registered with the Federal Government as "Historic," we can't demolish this out-building either. In effect, we are stuck between a rock — as in those missing and cracked in the 100 year-old shed's foundation — and a hard place: the underwriter's intransigence and the Historic Preservation's rules. Let's call it a Catch-22 "A."

At this point, I don't really know which way to turn. I'm not exactly damned if I do, I'm more damned because I can't. I don't think I'm asking for any kind of special dispensation. I'm not involving the Pope. I just want, to quote singer/songwriter Nick Lowe from his 1974 song, ("What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love and Understanding," some 'peace, love and understanding.' I'm not looking to make any trouble. In fact, I'm looking for the opposite: serenity, now and forever, with or without Seinfeld reruns. And I can afford it if the powers that be, won't be less omnipotent and help a fella out. I swear I won't bother them if they won't bother me. Make the approval a Festivus-type occasion except it won't be for the rest of us, it will be just for me and my wife. I promise I won't tell a soul.

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

# OPINION

## Race Still Matters: An Apology and Notice

I am ashamed to admit that I was one of those race vs. class people. Perhaps this worldview was seeded by a junior paper at Princeton focused on public perceptions of Affirmative Action which became a chapter in *Race vs. Class: The New Affirmative Action Debate* (1996, University Press of America). Perhaps it was nurtured as I traveled the well-trod post-graduate path to a top management consulting firm where I made more in my first job out of college than either of my parents; seeming to confirm the dominant theory that socioeconomic mobility through educational pathways was working, even for me, an African-American first-generation college graduate.

And perhaps it was cemented as I came of age in a time when, even on the left, a race-neutral social justice world view was more socially acceptable and therefore, less threatening, to my white colleagues, neighbors, and acquaintances.

Either way, I quickly began ascribing to the notion that socioeconomic mobility through improved educational opportunities could change the life trajectories of many economically vulnerable populations, including those who were racially marginalized. While tragic and all-too frequent national events provided sobering counterbalances to my wholehearted

embrace of socioeconomic mobility as a tool for racial equality, everything else in my life was pushing me to a race-neutral world view on which I doubled-down.

However, this race-neutral worldview is a lie.

The fact is that as an African-American Ivy League-educated woman in the 97th income percentile with the privilege of living in one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the suburbs of Northern Virginia and sending my children to the best public schools money can buy:

Persistent gender and race pay gaps mean I am undercompensated as compared to both white men and white women. (#EqualityCan'tWait)

I am still three times more likely to die in childbirth as a white woman, even after controlling for education and income. (#Serena Williams)

My beautiful elementary-aged brown boys are more likely to be mistaken for criminals holding real guns during an epic neighborhood nerf battle than their white age mates. (#Tamir Rice 5th Anniversary)

My strong, independent 4th grade brown girl is more likely to be adultified by society and disproportionately disciplined or even criminalized in school. (#Girlhood Interrupted)

In my idyllic Great Falls neighborhood, if one of our wonderful neighbors calls the police to

conduct a welfare check on us because the front door is open or something else is askew, any member of my family might pay the ultimate price. (#Atatiana Jefferson)

And even though our first gift to our children was strong, distinguished (and not coincidentally) race-neutral names to limit the impact of explicit and implicit bias in their life aspirations, IF my boys make it to adulthood, they will have a 50-50 chance of falling from the top income quintile to the bottom income quintile, compared with white kids who grow up wealthy and are five times more likely to stay wealthy than to become poor. (#OpportunityInsights)

All of these experiences rest upon my race, and not my socioeconomic status. In 2019, in America, no factor, not my Ivy League education, advanced degree, career as a foundation executive, or 401k balance can mitigate the burden of living black in a society built for white people.

The fact is: Race STILL Matters.

So, consider this both an apology for ever discounting the role of race in the social justice fight and official notice that I will no longer stand by and watch others discount race either.

RICSHAWN ADKINS ROANE  
GREAT FALLS

### COMMENTARY

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

The outcomes of the election on Nov. 5 are not known as I write this column. (The Reston Connection will go to press before the polls close.) I will no doubt have much to say about the results in future writings as this election is going to be pivotal for the Commonwealth's history regardless of who turns out to be the winners. What I was able to observe in the weeks and days leading up to election day was the highest level of people willing to help throughout the state in knocking on doors, making phone calls, writing postcards, and otherwise willing to chip in for their favorite candidates. If the level of activity leading up to election day is any indication, the turnout of voters should have been record breaking. "When we vote, we win" became the mantra of campaigns hoping to hold onto power or to transfer it to a more progressive legislature. As I traveled around the state, I became aware that while I had focused on state legislative contests there were many local elections that were critical to the future of local boards of supervisors and school boards.

What is known before the first vote was cast is that these elections were the most expensive ever seen in off-year elections in Virginia. When the total expenses of both candidates in many legislative elections are added together,



### COMMENTARY

it will not be unusual that the total exceeds a million dollars. For some highly contentious races the totals exceed three million dollars. I have never seen the generosity of individuals to contribute to elections in other parts of the state as great as it was this year. There is a growing recognition that while it is important who your elected official is, there is an equal importance to who holds the majority in the legislative body. You not only work to get your representatives elected, you also need to help the campaigns of those with whom he or she will have to work. Political contributions from out-of-state individuals and organizations poured into the state in record amounts.

Also interesting in this election cycle is the amazing transformation that occurred in some incumbent legislators. It took Virginia more than four years to approve Medicaid expansion in the state. Yet, if you listened to television commercials downstate you would not be able to find anyone who opposed the expansion. To the contrary, there were claims on the part of some incumbents who had voted against the expansion who in the campaign claimed credit for passing it. It is amazing what a refreshment with voters can do to some legislators' point of view and memories.

To analyze state and local election returns I

recommend that you go to the website of the State Board of Elections at [www.elections.virginia.gov/resultsreports](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/resultsreports) to see actual voting results. For more information on who the candidates were and how much they spent I suggest a visit to the Virginia Public Access Project, [www.vpap.org/elections](http://www.vpap.org/elections). In future columns I will provide my take on what the election results mean for the future of the Commonwealth.

A special shout out of recognition and thank you goes to all who worked so hard this election cycle. You are what makes the system work. Thank you!

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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