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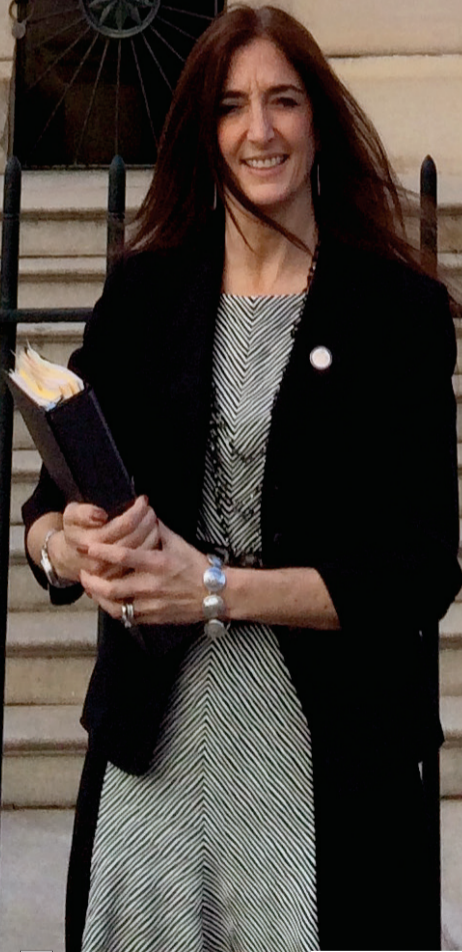
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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Promises of a Blue VA: 'A House for all Virginians'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) pictured outside of the Virginia State Capitol. Del. Filler-Corn is the first woman and first Jewish Speaker-designee in Virginia House of Delegates' 400-year history.



Herndon Holiday Homes Tour Dec. 7

NEWS, PAGE 4

Holiday Entertainment

CALENDAR, PAGE 2

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CONNECTION ARCHIVE PHOTO
OPINION, PAGE 5
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NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 3, 2019

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2020, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,260 to \$4,320¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$15,285 to \$18,030.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,300 to \$1,370¹.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$39 to \$40.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$12.20 to \$14.40¹.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.07 to \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.80 to \$3.85.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$48 to \$49.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 105% to 104% and the Overhead Charge for Materials from 16% to 13%.
11. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$38 to \$39.

¹Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$192.5 million budget for calendar year 2020¹. Water sales are expected to provide \$166.2 million and the remaining \$26.3 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2019	2020
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 56,839	\$ 60,020
Power and Utilities	10,890	11,060
Chemicals	7,241	7,878
Purchased Water	7,510	7,812
Supplies and Materials	5,418	5,713
Insurance	991	1,165
Fuel	685	730
Postage	612	622
Contractual Services	12,635	13,103
Professional Services	829	1,290
Other	2,353	2,562
Sub-Total	106,003	111,955
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,380)	(10,313)
Total	\$ 95,623	\$ 101,642

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$43,000,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$36,099,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019** to be included in the record of the public hearing.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at 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.

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

CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAYS

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Reston Holiday Parade. 10 a.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. The 29th annual Reston Holiday Parade – one of USA Today's 10 Best – plus tree lighting, sing-along, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more all day. Rain or shine. Schedule: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Visits and photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus; 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.: Mini-train rides on Market Street; 5 p.m.: Dance Performance at Fountain Square; 6–6:30 p.m.: Tree Lighting & Sing Along; 6:30–10 p.m.: Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

"Happy Joyous Hanukkah." 7 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Klezmatiks present Woody Guthrie's Happy Joyous Hanukkah at Reston Community Center. Cost is \$20 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. Woody Guthrie, father of American folk music and creator of "This Land Is Your Land," also wrote Hanukkah songs. These were discovered by his daughter in 1998 and are reinterpreted by the Klezmatiks.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

2019 Celebration of Lights. 3:45-6:30 p.m. At the Village Field in Great Falls (behind the Post Office). Celebrate the beginning of the season with the 29th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies next to the fire as you listen to local children's choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep your kids busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck to light the tree. The timeline is as follows:

3:45 p.m. - Great Falls United Methodist Preschool
4:00 p.m. - Village Green Day School
Pony Rides and Petting Zoo begin
4:15 p.m. - King's Kids Preschool
4:30 p.m. - Siena Academy
4:45 p.m. - St Francis Creche Preschool
5:00 p.m. - Santa and Mrs. Claus to light the tree
5:15 p.m. - Forestville ES Ensembles
5:30 p.m. - Great Falls ES
5:45 p.m. - Colvin Run ES Singalong
6:00 p.m. - Live Nativity (pony rides and petting zoo close)
Volunteers are needed between 4-6 p.m. Contact info@celebrategreatfalls.org if you are available. After Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree, they will meet all children who wish to share their holiday wishes.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Jingle on the Lake. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Join the Lake Anne Merchant Professionals Association for Jingle on the Lake. Come early to hear holiday music, participate in cookie decorating and other activities around the plaza, and see the plaza decorated for the holidays. Event Schedule:
❖ 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Reston Farmer's Market and Reston Craft Market;
❖ 9:45 a.m. - Jingle Jammie Beer Run at Lake Anne Brew House. Wear your santa hat and pajamas, runners/walkers/strollers/dogs, all are welcome • 10 am: Cookie decorating starts with Teapot and Cake;



Santa at The Closet

MONDAY/DEC. 9

Santa at The Closet. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At The Closet, 845 Station Street, Herndon. Santa will be at The Closet so bring your cameras or cellphones and get a picture with him. Children under 12 on the "nice" list will receive a treat. Free. Visit the website: www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org

❖ 10:30 - 11 a.m.: Good Shepherd Adult Choir performance;
❖ 12 p.m.: Santa arrives by boat with Susann Gerstein as Grand Marshall. Santa will stay to take a photo with and hear the wishes of all tiny tots attending the event inside the Reston Used Books Store;
❖ All day long: visit Lake Anne Plaza stores to pick up a letter to write to Santa. Mail to Santa at the North Pole Mail Service inside Chesapeake Chocolates.
Merchant specials:
❖ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: See the exhibit Live, Work, and PLAY! Toys of the 1960s exhibit at the Reston Historic Trust & Museum;
❖ 12 - 3 p.m.: Free wine tasting and hot chocolate at Chesapeake Chocolates.
Visit <http://lakeanneplaza.com>.

The Wonder of the Season. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Join The Reston Chorale for The Wonder of the Season, featuring Vivaldi's Gloria, family holiday favorites and a very special guest. Children 17 and under admitted free, but tickets are required. Tickets are \$0 to \$25. Visit www.RestonChorale.org.

DEC. 9-13

"The Nutcracker." At Reston's CenterStage, RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Presenting the Conservatory Ballet's 47th rendition of The Nutcracker. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 9-10, 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11-12, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 12, 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 13, 3:30 p.m. Generations of children have had their imaginations sparked by Clara, The Mouse King, and The Sugar Plum Fairy. This year's performances in Reston are especially meaningful as they represent a mother-daughter team working together to keep a 47-year-old family tradition alive. This year's performance features many young, local dancers including: Ana Bustamante (Reston), a Junior at Herndon High School with a passion for singing and music; and Audrey Kelley (Reston) a Senior at South Lakes High School with a passion for ballet and sports; Audrey has been performing with the company since she was 5 years old. Tickets are \$17-\$25. Visit www.principalballet.co or email nutcracker@conservatory-ballet.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Nuttin' Like the Nutcracker. 4-5:30 p.m. At Aldrin Elementary School, 11375 Center Harbor Road, Reston. Holiday family fun with selections from The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky and presentations by Aldrin Elementary students. Bring your own bells or other favorite

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 8

Promises of a Blue VA: 'A House for all Virginians'

Democrats continue to focus on education, transportation and economic equality issues.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On the evening of Nov. 5, 2019, voters in Virginia paved the way for a historic legislative shift from red to blue in January 2020 when the Virginia General Assembly convenes. Democrats had turned the tables resulting in Democratic State House and Democratic State Senate whirlwinds as members selected their leaders, sensitive to culture, gender and geographic diversity in Virginia. Democrats have pre-filed priority bills and a resolution for the January Session, to create an early voting system, universal background checks/gun safety, housing nondiscrimination for LGBTQ+ and ratification for the Equal Rights Amendment. They pledged to work on current critical needs in education, transportation and economic equality issues.

"We will be walking our own new path moving forward, of (a) Virginia that represents & listens to all people no matter what they look like, the color of their skin, the language they speak at home, the religion they practice or not, or who they love," tweeted House Speaker-designee Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41).

All 40 seats in the Virginia State Senate and all 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates had been up for grabs in the 161st Virginia General Assembly and Virginia Democrats picked up four House District seats, 40 (in Fairfax County), 76, 83 and 94 defeating the four Republican incumbents. Democrats won two other House seats, 28 and 91 in open races. They also picked up two State Senate seats, 10 and 13.

The Democrats would have full control of the state legislature when the Virginia General Assembly session convened on Jan. 8, 2020. All three arms of the state's government would be theirs. With the newfound power of a blue-controlled lower chamber of the Virginia Assembly alongside the Virginia State Senate coupled with a blue Governor's mansion, Democrats could pass their agenda Republicans blocked for years including gun safety, higher minimum



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lisa Sales, Equal Rights Amendment activist, State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), Kathy Stewart Shupe, Virginia Equal Right Coalition and activist Sonia Ballinger focus on Virginia ratification of the ERA.

wage and ratification of the Equal Right Amendment.

This also allows Democrats to wrest back control of the redistricting process after the 2020 Census, the shifting and drawing of the new maps for congressional and state legislative districts.

Democratic Agenda

The day after the election with new Democratic power base on the horizon in the state legislature, Governor Northam (D) told CNN's John Berman on "New Day" he planned to reintroduce a slate of "common-sense pieces of legislation" for gun control. "Getting rid of bump stocks, high volume magazines, red flag laws (extreme risk protective orders). I will reintroduce those in January, and I'm convinced with the majority now in the House and the Senate, they will become law. And because of that, Virginia will be safer... Another issue that is very important is women's reproductive health care and stopping the discrimination against the LGBTQ community," Governor Northam said.

Later that day, Governor Northam met with his cabinet and reporters. "Virginia is blue, and I want everyone to know that," he said. Northam stated he wanted to bring back eight bills in January, including decriminalizing marijuana, increasing support for early childhood education, more training for high schoolers to enter the

workforce, and reducing the recidivism rate. In addition, Northam said he hoped the Equal Rights Amendment would be brought to a floor vote and thought progress could be made with raising the minimum wage.

Caucus Leadership Elected

On Saturday, Nov. 9, the new House Democratic Majority Leadership announced the election of Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) as Speaker-designee. The full House of Delegates would officially vote the first day of the 2020 legislative session. The House also announced Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) as Majority Leader. She became the first woman and the first African American to serve as Majority Leader. And they elected Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48) as Caucus Chair.

"Not only did Virginia just elect the most diverse House of Delegates in its 400-year history, but House Democrats have made history again by nominating a diverse leadership slate to truly represent Virginia," said House Democratic Caucus Executive Director Trevor Southerland. "Finally, we will be able to move forward with a House for All Virginians."

"We are a unified caucus with the shared priority to move our Commonwealth forward, address our most critical challenges, and ensure transparency for all Virginians," said Speaker-designee Filler-Corn. "We are stepping up to lead and understand the value of making our schools better, our communities stronger, our economy fairer, and our Commonwealth the envy of all the states. The firsts are not lost on me - the first woman and the first Jewish person elected Speaker designee in our 400-year

VIEWPOINTS

Legislators on Expectations, Priorities

The Connection asked local Virginia State Senators and Delegates:

❖ *What changes do the 2019 election results bring to the General Assembly?*

❖ *What do you see as the top five legislative priorities in the next session?*

❖ *What are your personal legislative priorities in the next session, and what are their prospects to pass in General Assembly?*

Delegate Ibraheem Samirah (D-86)

"It's hard to understate how unprecedented the 2019 results are for the General Assembly and the Commonwealth. This could be the first time in modern history, really, when we will have a law-making majority that holds basic progressive values like fairness, inclusion, equity and the pursuit of justice for all. We will also have the most diverse General Assembly in Virginia's history.

For the new majority as a whole, I think ratifying the ERA, strengthening voting rights, raising the minimum wage, preventing gun violence, and fair redistricting are at the top of the list. I hope to also move the conversation around affordable and available housing, workers' rights and the legalization of marijuana, including expungement of records.

As a medical professional, reining in the cost of healthcare and improving public health more broadly are my top priorities. I've already introduced legislation this month that is aimed at improving maternal health and mental health. I have more legislation on the way that will work to make affordable, quality health insurance a possibility for uninsured and underinsured Virginians. I'm also planning to help address the outrageous price of prescription drugs. If these ideas get a fair hearing, and the overwhelming evidence around why the healthcare system is so expensive is heard, I think these bills will be able to move through the General Assembly."

Senator Barbara Favola (D-31)-Incoming Chair of Rehabilitation & Social Services:

"The Democratic majorities will honor Virginia's history as a forebearer to the Bill of Rights and a state that included an equality amendment in its own constitution by ratifying the ERA. This will be a momentous occasion. Gun safety measures such as universal background checks and red-flag bills will pass, a women's constitutional right to privacy as defined in Roe v Wade will be protected, and important criminal justice reform measures will pass.

I will be submitting legislation to require paid sick days. Too many families are struggling because they cannot care for themselves or their sick children. I will also be submitting legislation to protect a patient from high medical care bills if he/she received emergency care from out-of-network providers. In collaboration with the Zero Carbon Virginia group, I will be implementing important actions to address climate change. Voters spoke very strongly in 2019 about the need for a new direction in the criminal justice system. One piece of legislation that I have continually sponsored is the expungement of non-violent felony convictions from the records of juveniles. I am confident that this legislation will now pass.

It is noteworthy that the composition of the General Assembly more closely reflects the diversity of our great state, and women are taking their place in the power structure.

legislative history. ..We have the most diverse House Caucus in our history, which includes cultural, gender and geographic diversity. It also means diversity of experience and perspectives on issues that affect Virginians in all regions.

SEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
PAGE 6

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NEWS

Herndon Holiday Homes Tour Dec. 7

The untold ins and outs of the community-based and supported event.

By KEVEN LABLANC



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

It's a Town of Herndon community effort to present the annual Herndon Holiday Homes Tour.

The community focused Herndon Holiday Homes Tour is Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. In addition to the five beautifully decorated private homes featured this year, the event committee added a bonus stop and expanded offerings at ArtSpace Herndon.

Rachel Eisenfeld is the owner of the Elden Street Tea shop located at 714 Pine Street. She agreed to open her historic shop as a "bonus home" and is providing a special treat on the day of the tour to anyone showing their Tour Ticket. The shop offers 65+ hand-curated teas, snacks and an array of arts and crafts for sale to the public.

Arts Herndon is providing space for local civic organizations to display information about their social and charitable missions at its gallery and performing arts venue located at 750 Center Street. Local artisans and craftspeople will also be there on tour day, selling their handcrafted items, perfect for gifting. While there, tour patrons can enjoy refreshments from the Green Lizard Cycling & Coffee Shop and Great Harvest Bakery. Organizers hope by involving community merchants, artists, artisans and nonprofit organizations; they distinguish and set the Herndon Holiday Homes Tour apart from others in the area.

In keeping with the theme of community, members from local civic organizations will be on hand as volunteer docents in the featured homes to share information. Herndon Florist, located on Lynn Street, committed to donating a holiday arrangement or wreath to every homeowner on the tour. And, other local entrepreneurs donated support to produce the enhanced brochures and help fund the after-reception party for homeowners and docents. All that com-

munity giving translates to increased proceeds from the event for organizers to contribute back to the docenting civic organizations in support of their charitable missions. Finally, in commemoration of the event for homeowners on tour nationally acclaimed local artist Pat Macintyre of Reston will donate a large framed ink sketch of each home as a special thank you gift to homeowners.

One of the organizers' primary challenges in this volunteer-fueled event is soliciting homes. While committee members love the homes decorated for the holidays, they also strive to find a mix of periods, architecture styles, sizes and unusual interiors to appeal to the area's diverse community. Each year finding homeowners willing to open their homes is difficult. This year, as a special incentive, the committee is offering free tickets to homeowners who would like to consider featuring their homes on tour soon. Many owners of previously featured homes commented on how much more integrated they became in the community after meeting neighbors and local leaders through the event.

For tour information visit, <http://2019holidayhometourherndon.eventbrite.com/>. Tickets are available at Herndon Florist, 716 Lynn Street (cash or check only); Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue (cash, check, or credit) through Dec. 7 and Online until Dec. 6, 11:59 p.m. (pick up ticket day of tour at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street).

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter

HERNDON HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Sunday, December 8
10am-4pm

Over 90 vendors. Unique gifts, holiday decorations and homemade items.

Free Admission & Parking
Herndon Community Center
814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon, VA 20170

herndon-va.gov/events • 703-787-7300

Herndon Soup Maker Celebrates 10 Years

Herndon based 100 Bowls of Soup celebrated its 10th anniversary last Friday night at its Herndon kitchen with an Open House & Tasting Event benefiting Cornerstones, a Reston nonprofit organization. The event featured a selection of the local soup maker's fall soups and broths along with artisanal foods from other local food entrepreneurs. "I am so grateful for the help, guidance and support of so many friends, fans, customers, employees, community members, farmers and food entrepreneurs," said 100 Bowls of Soup owner and founder Katharine Mardirosian. "I wanted to mark this big milestone by celebrating local food makers and by giving back to our community."

Attendees were able to meet the makers, enjoy samplings, purchase holiday gifts and give back to the community. Locally made foods and makers included fresh juices from Kochany Wellness (Sterling), switchel beverages from Vitick's Switchel (Arlington), spices and chutneys from Aromatic Spice



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local food artisans with 100 Bowls of Soup owner Katharine Mardirosian at the Company's Open House & Tasting Event.

Blends (Sterling), sauerkraut from WowWow Ferments (Vienna), gluten-free paleo sweets from Bakefully Yours (Sterling), sustainably sourced chocolates from River-Sea Chocolates (Sterling) and gluten-free granola from Dano's Granola (Reston). Local farmer David Guisti of Second Spring Farm (Purcellville) discussed the importance of buying from local farms using sustainable farming methods. The event raised \$1000 for Cornerstones.

OPINION

Jump into the Children's (and Teens') Connection

Please send all submissions no later than Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Earlier is better!

During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions, but don't be limited by these:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever been given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (around 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys,

trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.
- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.
- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.
- ❖ Were you involved in November's elections? What did you think?

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 13, 2019.

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Happy Thanksgiving 2019

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

The 38 British settlers who landed on Dec. 4, 1619 at the site of what is now Berkeley Plantation, about halfway between Williamsburg and Richmond, fell to their knees and thanked the Good Lord. Little wonder that they were thankful



COMMENTARY

drinking red wine with local Native Americans.

From its earliest beginnings the diversity of America with the Spanish, British and Indigenous Americans was providing ample reason for a thanksgiving celebration. None of those early celebrations continued.

The celebration that we know of as Thanksgiving today traces its continuous history to 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation during the Civil War to "render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things he had done in the nation's behalf and...to subdue the anger which has produced and for so long sustained a needless and cruel rebellion...and finally to lead the whole nation through the paths of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Season to Go Back to Basics

To the Editor:

In just a couple of days, me and my family will join together to share a meal and eat some pumpkin pie. I'll get a couple of days off school to sleep in and relax. But Thanksgiving is not just about food, but gratitude. These days, it seems like we don't appreciate each other enough. But I hope this holiday season, we go back to basics.

Aumena Choudhry

12th Grade, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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Change in the General Assembly

FROM PAGE 3



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Senate Democratic Press Conference on ERA, Senate Finance Committee, Harrisonburg, Va., Thursday, Nov. 21.

lies as we shape our policy agenda for the commonwealth in 2020 and beyond.”

First Bills and Resolution Filed

Shortly after midnight on Monday, Nov. 18, Democratic lawmakers began to file bills minutes into the opening date of pre-filing for the 2020 General Assembly session. State Sen. Jennifer L. McClellan (D-9) submitted her first legislation moments after filing season opened at midnight, putting passage of the ERA at the symbolic head of the list for that chamber.

The weekend after the filing, Democratic Caucus Chair Rip Sullivan (D-48) shared his thoughts on party's intention for the first three House Bills and resolution, “We tried to send a signal of our highest priorities, in terms of the top,” he said.

Democrats filed:

❖ HB1: No-excuse in-person and mail absentee voting; Patron: Del. Charniele Herring (D-46).

❖ HB2: Universal background checks; Patron: Del. Ken Plum (D-36). This bill would require universal background checks for any firearm sales or transfers.

❖ HB3: LGBTQ+ Housing Non-discrimination; Patron: Del. Delores McQuinn (D-70). The bill defined sexual orientation and gender identity.

❖ HJ1: Equal Rights Amendment; Patron: Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2) ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed by Congress in 1972. “Today, I filed a resolution to have Virginia be the 38th and final state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution for the upcoming 2020 General Assembly session. It's time to be on the right side of history. It's time to finally ratify the #ERA,” Foy tweeted.

VA Senate Democrats Elect leadership

On Nov. 20, VA Senate Democrats elected leadership ahead of the 2020 legislative session.

From the Senate Democratic Caucus:

Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax)-Majority Leader

Sen. Mamie Locke (D-Hampton)-Caucus Chair

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Mount Vernon) Caucus Vice Chair

Sen. Jeremy McPike (Prince William)- Caucus Vice Chair

Sen. Barbara Favola (D-Arlington) Caucus Co-Whip

Sen. Lionell Spruill (D-Chesapeake) Caucus Co-Whip

Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond)- Caucus Secretary

Sen-elect Ghazala Hashni (D-Chesterfield)- Caucus Treasurer

Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-Fairfax)- Caucus Sergeant at Arms

Sen. Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth)-President Pro Tempore-designee (first African American and the first woman to serve as President Pro Tempore)

Senate Democrats announced Committee Chairs for the 2020 legislative session:

Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources: Senator Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City)

Commerce & Labor Committee: Senator Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax)

Courts of Justice: Senator John Edwards (D-Roanoke)

Education & Health: Senator L. Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth)

Finance: Senator Janet Howell (D-Fairfax)

Rules: Senator Mamie E. Locke (D-Hampton)

Rehabilitation & Social Services: Senator Barbara Favola (D-Arlington)

General Laws: Senator George Barker (D-Fairfax)

Local Government: Senator Lynwood Lewis (D-Accomack)

Transportation: Senator Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax)

Privileges & Elections: Senator Creigh Deeds (D-Bath)

With the appointment of State Senator Janet Howell (D-Fairfax) as incoming Chairwoman of the Senate Finance Committee and Del. Luke Torian (D-Prince William) as chair of the House Appropriations Committee, the state's purse strings and its power rested in Northern Virginia.

On Nov. 21, incoming House Speaker Filler-Corn announced decisions for Chairs of two additional committees Del. Mark Sickles (D-43)- Health, Welfare & Institutions Committee and Del. Delores McQuinn (D-70) Transportation Committee.

Employment

Advanced Network Technology Solutions, Inc. in Herndon, VA is seeking Process & Systems Analysts to work with comp in order to ensure that their IT bus proc, proced, wf, QC, & corrective measures are meeting the req of the Inter Stand Org (ISO). Mail app to: Advanced Network Technology Solutions, Inc. Attn: Sanjay Barthakur, 2386 Dakota Lakes Dr., Herndon, VA 20171. No travel; no telecomm.

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

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

Transition Team Announced

As the days after the election rolled forward, on Nov. 14, the blue wave surged. Speaker-designee Filler-Corn announced her transition team, 18 key advisors, to assist as she transitioned into the office of Speaker of the House of Delegates. She selected Wayne Turnage as Chair and Suzette Denslow as Transition Staff Director. She chose other members for her team, including Walter Tejada, a member of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Directors and Ilryong Moon of Fairfax, the first Asian American elected to a public office in Virginia. “People across the Commonwealth told us they wanted to move our Commonwealth forward, address our most critical challenges and ensure transparency for all Virginians,” posted Filler-Corn. “I am truly honored to have guidance from these leaders from across Virginia to develop leadership to make our schools better, our communities stronger and our economy more fair.”

Chairs of Key Legislative Committees

House Speaker-designee Filler-Corn announced her picks for the key legislative committees in a news release Thursday, Nov. 14. Choices reflected racial, gender and geographic diversity of the Democratic caucus. She named Del. Luke Torian, (D-52), as chair of the Appropriations Committee; Del. Jeion Ward, (D-92), as chair of the Commerce and Labor Committee; and Del. Roslyn Tyler, (D-75), as chair of the Education Committee. All three are members of the black caucus. House Filler-Corn also announced Del. Vivian Watts, (D-39), as chair of the Finance Committee. “These impressive leaders will be important al-

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at 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 Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
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
❖ 11 a.m. - Development Process Committee
❖ 1:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
❖ 3 p.m. - **General Assembly Annual Reception and Work Session**

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 unique 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, but real-life scenarios, students are asked to review, discuss and reach ethical decisions for each scenario. About 70 volunteers from the business community lead a small group of 8-10 students through these scenarios and facilitate vibrant discussions. They are running short on volunteers and still have 30 spots to fill. To learn more, contact Alicia Field, Events and Development Director, at 703-707-9045 or aliciaf@restonchamber.org.

Commemorative Brick Program.

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum will be celebrating its commemorative brick program. Members of the community are encouraged to support not only the Reston Historic Trust & Museum on Giving Tuesday – but to do so by ordering a commemorative brick which is a great way to leave your mark on Reston or give as a gift to friends, family, teachers, neighbors, organizations, or even a pet. Commemorative bricks can be ordered at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/bricks>. The bricks are ordered only once a year. Bricks to be installed in 2020 must be ordered by Jan. 8, 2020. Bricks are then reviewed by the Lake Anne Condominium Association and Reston Historic Trust & Museum.

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 information 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 donalrea@aol.com.

Herndon High School Library needs volunteers. Training available to help with re-shelving books, pulling books for teacher use, helping to check passes, or other special projects. To learn more, email hhs_library@fcps.edu.

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 or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

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Lost in the Shuffle



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As difficult as the last few weeks have been, with Chino's at-home hospice-type care and ultimate passing, and the "Catch-22 A" realities of "reverse-mortgaging" my house "perplexed" by the "derelict" stable/shed on my property, my upcoming quarterly CT scan hasn't even "blipped" the radar. Though it will have occurred already by the time this column prints, it's quite possible, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, its results won't be known for much longer, 12 days in fact, than has been customary. And so far, between my wife, Dina and I, none of this has even been discussed. Yet, as I sit and write on Sunday, the scan is on Wednesday, three days away. Close enough to where it should have been front and center instead of where it's been: back and off to the side.

But so what, really? My attitude is, and has always been, to quote John, a close friend: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." By the time I slide forth and back under the CT scan's arch, or earlier I imagine, the damage to my body such as it is - or isn't, will have been done. Either the cancer has grown/spread or it hasn't. Certainly hearing and/or reading results from the oncologist will confirm facts at present not in evidence but there is, without being particularly negative about my circumstances, an inevitability to it. One day, my amazing nearly 11-year run is going to come to a walk and eventually to a lie-down. And I will deal with it when the time/results come. In the interim however, this next scan is merely another stop on the less-than Merry Go 'Round.

I don't mean to make light of an extremely heavy burden that we cancer patients have to carry: the prospect of death. As Lee J. Cobb said in "The Exorcist": "I only mention it in passing." Cancer causes enough internal problems (physically), one doesn't need, if possible - and so far for me, it has been possible, to cause external (emotional) problems as well. Maybe it's a kind of resignation or some kind of accommodation or acceptance of reality that has enabled this one to have lived so long beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis (offered up on Feb. 27, 2009), an accomplishment I am proud to say occasionally has led to my oncologist showing me off to his medical students; his prize cow I call myself.

Honestly, what's the point, really? I'm only in control of so much. Focusing on things I can't control seems a waste of time and energy. Life is precious. Why dwell on things beyond my reach? Grasping at straws, if you can even find one, is likewise counter-productive. And setting oneself up for failure or disappointment is counter-intuitive almost. Why do that? The cancer is already causing enough havoc in your body. Don't let it affect your mind too. "Piling on," as the NFL referees used to call this major infraction. Now I believe its called "Unnecessary Roughness." For cancer patients, doing anything, physically or emotionally to hasten your demise/adversely affect your quality of life is most definitely unnecessary roughness and should be penalized.

Learning to live with what ails you seems a more prudent plan than "woeing" is me or bemoaning the process. Sure we'd all love to be on the President's plan where you're examined in the morning, scanned in the afternoon and operated on in the evening. But none of us are on the plan and wishing we were, to quote Jean Luc Picard from "Star Trek: Next Generation," is not going to "Make it so." But I can live with that. I have lived with that - for almost 11 years now, and counting. I'll learn the results from my scan soon enough. Good or bad, life goes on. To quote my friend John's daughter, Melanie: "Whatever."

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



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 2

instruments, as well as your voices. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated. Visit the website: www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

EVENTS IN ALEXANDRIA

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. Through your support of the events of The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, you provide vital support to Campagna Center programs that serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. Visit the website: <https://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend>

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Boat Parade of Lights. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point

Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities.

- Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)
- ❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
 - ❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
 - ❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
 - ❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
 - ❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

RESTON HERNDON CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 27

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. We will be discussing "Naked Economics" by Charles Wheelan. Call 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Jingles in Jammies & Swimming. 5:30-9 p.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Cost is \$5 per person, \$18 per family. Pay on-site day of event. Kickoff the holidays with some family fun. Go for a swim in the pool then change into your PJs to enjoy a showing of "Elf." Rated PG. Popcorn and hot cocoa will be served. Bring a blanket for seating. Parents must accompany children 5 and under in the water. All children must have adult supervision at the pool and this event. Visit herndon-va.gov/events, or call 703-787-7300.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Artisan Pop-Up. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At a Private Home Show, 1650 Parkcrest Circle, Reston. Shop from seven-plus local artists showing original paintings, prints, children's books, artisanal chocolates, ceramics, jewelry and (it's actually true) more. Parking is easy and the spirit is merry. Contact Hannah Huthwaite at email: hannahhuthwaite@gmail.com.

Small Crawl. At Lake Anne Plaza, 11402 Washington Plaza, West, Reston. Start with a group "Crawl" (walk) around Lake Anne starting at Bronze Bob and then visit participating businesses to sample what they have to offer with a "small" selection. Bring your friends, family, kids and pets. Walk off your Thanksgiving meal and have a fun filled and delightful day.

Participating businesses: • Teapot & Cake – Snowflake cupcake \$1 • Reston Historic Trust & Museum – Reston Sticker – free. • Chesapeake Chocolates – Free wine tasting and Virginia treats 12 – 3 p.m. and \$1 Chocolate all day long. Write a letter to Santa at the North Pole Mailing station • Reston Used Books Store – 50% short stories • Lake Anne Brew House – 1/2 price off of your first "Small Pour" (5 oz. size taster) • Lake Anne Coffee House & Wine Bar – Small cookie for sale. Visit <http://lakeanneplaza.com>.

Mark Twain Birthday Celebration. 2 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in this literary celebration of Mark Twain's birthday. Call 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY, DEC. 3

Bollywood Dance Fitness. 6:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in a fun Bollywood dance fitness class led by local instructor Aparna Rao. No experience necessary.

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