

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

SYA cheerleaders marching during a previous Centreville Day parade. This year's celebration is Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., in Historic Centreville Park.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2021-2022

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5, 2021

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
REQUESTED IN HOME 9-30-21

POSTAL CUSTOMER
EGR WSS

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT # 322

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

It's time to add your flower to the fight.



JOIN US AT
ALZ.ORG/WALK



Additional Walks available. Find one near you at alz.org/walk

OCTOBER 9 THE NATIONAL MALL
OCTOBER 24 RESTON TOWN CENTER

2021 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSORS
Edward Jones CVSHealth

NEWCOMERS GUIDE

New Festival, Parktoberfest, Set for E.C. Lawrence Park

With the arrival of fall, it's time to gather outdoors and enjoy the pleasures of the season. And a brand-new one is ParktoberFest, a family-friendly celebration at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. It's slated for Saturday, Oct. 9, from noon-5 p.m. The fun and festivities will happen on the lawn of Middlegate House (beside Cabell's Mill) at 5235 Walney Road in Centreville.

Attendees may enjoy performances by The Walkways and Jay Byrd, sample local brews and pe-

use the arts, crafts, food and other offerings available from specialty vendors and community businesses. Also planned are activities for all ages. Free parking will be in the gravel lot across from the pond, but walking and biking to the site are encouraged.

ParktoberFest is sponsored by the Friends of Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Authority. For more information, call 703-631-0013 or go to www.eclpfriends.org.

- BONNIE HOBBS

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SEPT. 30-OCT. 3

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Friends of Reston Library Sale of Gently Used Books. From casual readers to intense book lovers, something for every shelf. Items in great condition. Hardback and Paperback \$2. Visit the website: www.RestonLibraryFriends.com

DIAPER DRIVE

HomeAid Northern Virginia aims to collect 50,000-plus diapers to distribute to local shelters and nonprofits serving vulnerable families as part of its annual "Builders for Babies" diaper drive that kicked off this week and extends through Dec. 15th.

If you would like to host a drive and need a collection box, flyer or more information to get started, contact Cilda Pretorius at 703-953-3525 or cpretorius@homeaidnova.org. Drop off diaper donations or purchase through Amazon wish list Diapers and wipes are being collected through Dec. 15th.

Participating companies and individuals can also schedule a time to drop off donations at 3684 Center-view Drive, Suite 110B Chantilly, VA 20151 or send diapers/wipes directly to the HomeAid Northern Virginia office through the Amazon wish list.

THURSDAY/OCT. 7

Pathways To Wellness Annual Conference. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia will sponsor the Pathways to Wellness Conference, an annual event that celebrates mental health recovery. This virtual event's theme is Still Striving, Still Thriving Through it All. The event is planned and hosted by the Wellness and Recovery Committee, a group of representatives of government and nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia whose work and lives involve mental health recovery. Attendees include individuals with mental health concerns, their loved ones, professionals in the field, and anyone interested in wellness. Attendance is free but guests must register. To learn more, visit www.PathwaysToWellness-Conf.com. Call Will Schermerhorn at (703) 338-1776 or contact him via email coordinator@pathway-stowellnessconf.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 8

Raise the Region Fundraiser. 7 p.m. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia hosts its 2021 Raise the Region, a virtual event that will be live-streamed and will include an online auction and opportunities to engage and connect with the community from the comfort of your home. The theme this year is Building a Community that Works for Everyone, and the event will highlight a record level of giving from the Community Foundation throughout the region. Visit www.cfnova.org/RaiseTheRegion.

Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years

Free Estimates **703-999-2928**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com



Virginia Williams
High School Career Association
Annual

HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FORUM
Grades 9-12

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021 - 11am-1pm
A Virtual Event

For information and/or to register go to vwshsca@gmail.com
Please give your first & last name, grade & contact info
(email & ph#). Last day to register is Oct. 21st.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

What's on Tap for Centreville and Chantilly

Community center, transportation projects are on the horizon.



Artist's rendition of the Sully District Community Center in Chantilly.



Workmen are busy building the Sully District Community Center near the Udvar-Hazy Center.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With an eye toward the future, several projects are in the works in Centreville and Chantilly. Below are details about some of them:

Sully District Community Center

Fairfax County is building the Sully District Community Center on a 5-acre site at the intersection of Wall Road and Air and Space Museum Parkway in Chantilly. The roughly 30,000 square-foot building will serve as a multigenerational center for the surrounding communities, so it's geared for residents of Chantilly, Centreville and Oak Hill.

It will also be the new and permanent home of the Sully Senior Center and will include a health-care component, as well. The community center will offer a broad array of services, programs and activities for people of all ages and abilities. Estimated cost is more than \$20 million, and the project

is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

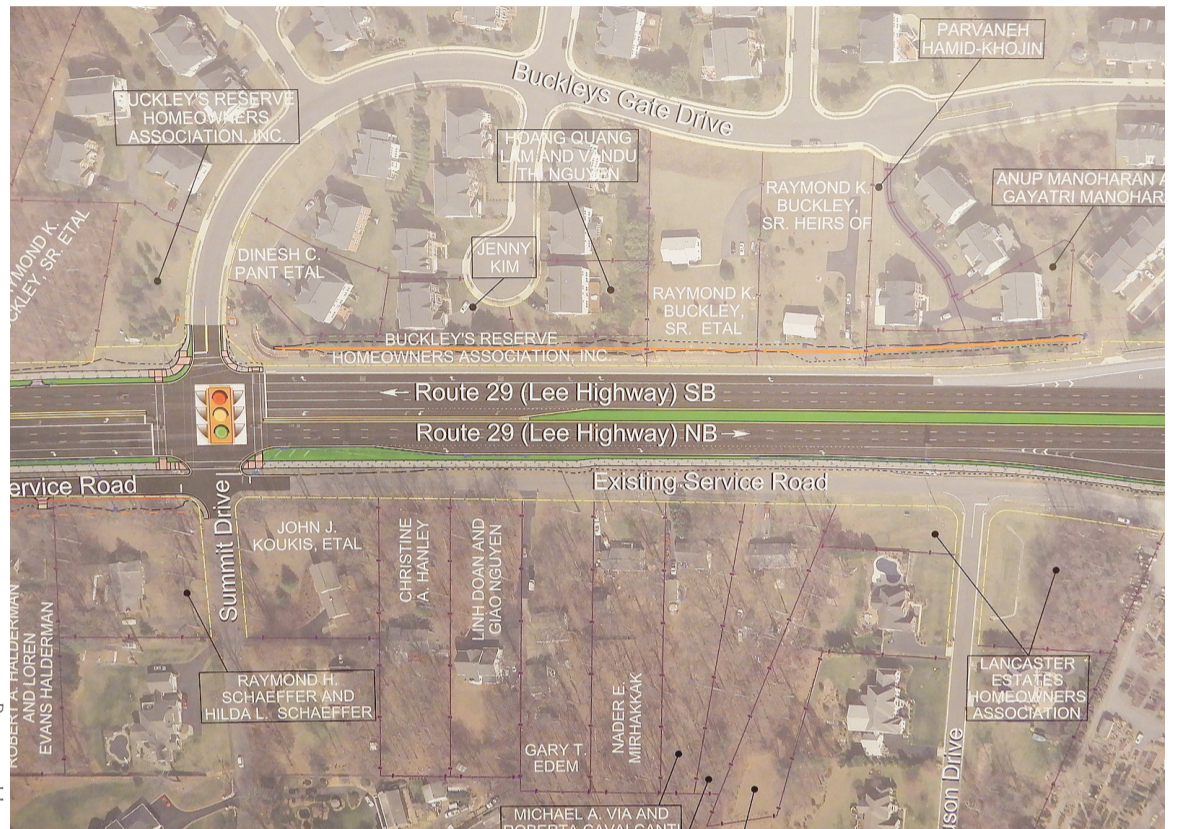
Planned are three, multipurpose rooms for programs both day and evening, plus an arts-and-crafts room, game room, exercise room, offices, kitchen and pantry. The facility will also feature a gym with two basketball courts. There'll be programs for youth after school and during the summer. And the center will provide a meeting place for groups and organizations, too.

Transportation Projects

Route 28 Widening

Rush hour on Route 28 in Centreville can be pretty, slow going. But a multimillion-dollar widening project should improve things considerably. It won't become reality until 2023, but plans are well underway toward making that happen.

Route 28 will be widened from four lanes to six, for about 2.3 miles, between the bridge over Bull Run (south of Compton Road) and the Route 29 Interchange. Besides adding more through lanes to



Route 29 will be widened from four-to-six lanes between Buckley's Gate Drive and Union Mill Road.



Dignitaries break ground, Sept. 17, for the Route 28 widening project.

Route 28, the project will provide additional lanes on side streets to improve traffic flow.

It will also improve intersection operations, upgrade existing traffic signals and improve bicycle and pedestrian crossings. In addition, new, 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths will be created on both sides of Route 28.

This Fairfax County project is being done in cooperation with VDOT and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and is completely funded from a variety of sources. The whole shebang is estimated to cost nearly \$80 million, with NVTA investing \$26 million. Shirley Contracting Co. is the design-builder, and Fairfax

County's Department of Transportation will do the construction.

Route 29 Widening

During the afternoon rush hours, Route 29 between Buckley's Gate Drive and Union Mill Road is 1.5 miles of painfully slow, bumper-to-bumper traffic. That's when residents are heading home to Centreville, or points west, trying to avoid I-66 west's gridlock at the same time.

There's also a bottleneck there during the morning rush, with long backups at the intersection of Clifton and Stringfellow roads. But VDOT is riding to the rescue with a plan to widen that stretch of Route 29 from four to six lanes.

The goal is to reduce congestion, while improving safety, operations and access. The project will also add and improve 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths along both sides of Route 29 to provide better bicycle and pedestrian access to the trails at the Fairfax County Parkway/West Ox Road Interchange. Planned, as well, are crosswalk improvements at major intersections, with modified signals to accommodate them.

There'll be intersection improvements at Centreville Farms and Union Mill roads, Clifton and Stringfellow Roads, Meadow Estates Drive and Hampton Forest Way, and Buckley's Gate and Sum-

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 16

Reston and Herndon See Growth in 2021

New Silver Line stations beyond Wiehle have yet to open.



A view of the new pedestrian walkway over the Dulles Toll Road that accesses Metro's Reston Town Center Station and joins the 14-acre Reston Crossing Development located south of the toll road between Edmund Halley Drive and Reston Parkway.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

One of the most significant projects of 2021 that will continue to alter how people live, work, play, and shop in Reston and Herndon is the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. The Silver Line will run westward to the Dulles Airport and end at Route 772 in eastern Loudoun County when fully operational. Currently, the Wiehle-Reston East station is the Silver Line terminus. One of the two residential towers planned for the Faraday Park near the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station opened in June 2021.

The opening date for the stations in Reston and Herndon, Reston Town Center Station, Herndon Station, and Innovation Center

Station is still to be determined by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, with some hoping for February of 2022.

Their mixed-use, clustered developments appear to mirror many design principles of urbanism brought forward fifty years ago by Reston's founder, Robert E. Simon.

The visionary planner of Reston, Simon leveraged his pioneering design of densely self-contained neighborhoods at a community's core. In the 1960s, Simon envisioned offering housing at different price points, adjacent shopping and amenities within walking distance, and access to blue-green spaces.

Mobility was key. Simon's design facilitated walking and biking, leading to friendly interactions between people of diversified in-



The Fairfax County Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway is home to the Board of Supervisors, which establishes county government policy and passes resolutions and ordinances within the limits of its authority established by the Virginia General Assembly. However, cities and towns pass their own resolutions and ordinances, which may or may not be the same as the County's.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Reston Town Center Station

come levels and the medley of races and cultures settling in Reston. Simon insisted that amenities, paths, lakes, parks, tennis courts, and green space be installed with housing and retail. Most pointedly, he insisted on the principle of racial equality. Many other Virginia communities were still segregated when he began Reston.

West of the Wiehle-Reston East station, tower cranes expand their jib lengths to massive heights near the not-yet-open Reston Town Center Station. The new 14-acre Reston Crossing Development sits south of the Dulles Toll Road be-

tween Edmund Halley Drive and Reston Parkway. The project provides six parks and a 10-foot wide shared-use trail connecting Reston Parkway to the Metro station. Reston Crossing built an elevated pedestrian bridge to the Metro station platform and sidewalks and trails to connect to the station.

One of the newest comers at the Wegman-anchored development is Akridge. It filed plans in April 2021 and proposes to build 480 residential units in two buildings. The Halley Rise development has already signed on as a tenant, Pinstripes, a bowling, bocce, and bis-

tro experience venue.

Other cranes delivered high lift capacities completing the Herndon Station and outside the town's corporate limits, the Innovation Center Station. Land use with greater density is designed closer to the stations, concentrating plazas, retail, and things to do in the cores. The planned areas offer various architectural styles and designs for apartments, townhomes, and condos in a range of price brackets.

Like the Reston Town Center Station, the Herndon Station is not yet open. According to Dulles

SEE RESTON AND, PAGE 12



The \$39 million renovation project at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston welcomed students back to in-person learning in fall 2021 and added about 183,566 square feet to the school. Close-out work is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2021.



Windows are nearly in as of late September 2021 at the \$86 million Lake Anne House Senior House, a new mid-rise planned to serve low-income residents. It is located at 11444 North Shore Drive in Reston and is anticipated to open in 2022, replacing the nearby 50-year old structure.



Discussions are in the early stages between Fairfax County and the Lake Anne of Reston Condominium Association (LARCA) to possibly find a means and funds for \$37 million of repairs needed to fix aging infrastructure concerns after a cursory conditions assessment by an architectural firm Samaha Associations funded by Fairfax County.

Reston. Home to
America's top parks
and top wealth advisors.

**Congratulations to local Forbes Top 250 advisors:
Paul Pagnato of Cresset Asset Management,
Simon Hamilton and Gregory Smith of The Wise
Investor Group, Baird**



At New York Life Investments, we believe in the power of relationships that stand the test of time.
To learn more, visit newyorklifeinvestments.com

"New York Life Investments" is both a service mark, and the common trade name, of certain investment advisors affiliated with New York Life Insurance Company.

1913584



INVESTMENTS

More than investing. Invested.

Lucky To Call Fairfax County Home

BY JEFF MCKAY
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Welcome to Fairfax County. You are moving here under unusual and unprecedented times. That said, this last year and a half reminded me why I'm proud to lead Fairfax County as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and why I have been so fortunate to be able to call it home for all of my life.

In Fairfax County, we take COVID-19 and vaccinating our population seriously. As of Sept. 24, 2021, we are proud to have 81.2% of people over the age of 18 vaccinated with at least one dose and 83.6% of adolescents 12-17 vaccinated similarly with at least one dose. While we have made great strides in slowing the spread of COVID-19, Fairfax County is experiencing a high transmission of COVID-19 cases due to the infectious Delta variant. Unfortunately, there are many (particularly young students) who are not eligible to be vaccinated. We need everyone to do their part and get vaccinated to help protect those who are not able. This is especially important to keeping our students in school. Schedule your appointment at <http://vaccine.gov/>

As we navigated (and continue to navigate)

the pandemic, Fairfax County has been on the frontlines of providing the support our residents and businesses need. Thanks to federal dollars, our Board of Supervisors has invested millions to help get people back on their feet through emergency rental and food assistance. We have awarded \$87 million in grants for small businesses and non-profits who have been impacted. We deliberately targeted

businesses that historically don't have access to these types of funding opportunities, including veteran- women- and minority-owned organizations.

Now, it's time to look to recovery. We will continue to target our efforts to make sure families have the access to assistance they need. This is particularly important in the portions of the County most hit by COVID.

We have exciting projects down the pipeline for our businesses including the Fairfax Founders Fund which will provide capital to entrepreneurs in the County who are focused on emerging technologies and will be targeted towards those who have less access to capital.

In addition, in line with the One Fairfax policy I co-authored in 2017, which puts equity at the center to every decision we make, I convened a Task Force on Equity and Opportunity. It was clear from the inequities of the pandemic

coupled with the movement fighting for racial justice that it was time to take the next step. My Task Force looked at systemic obstacles standing in the way of equity and recently provided its recommendations to the Board.

Despite all the uncertainty around us, we are lucky to live in Fairfax County. We have a caring and diverse population and great resources. For example, we have 23,000 acres of parkland, which includes 427 public parks and 325 miles of trails to enjoy when you want to be outside safely. One of my favorite escapes has been Huntley Meadows Park in my neighborhood. It makes me thankful for our continued investment in our greenspaces and efforts to protect the environment.

Navigating this pandemic has not been a straight path forward. We have had to pivot to save lives. Over time we have made significant investments in our infrastructure that have well positioned us to respond. Our sophisticated Health Department, first responders, and County frontline workers are all dedicated to our community. Their work has been exceptional and remind us why a responsive, well-run government is essential in times like these.

As we navigate a world beyond COVID-19, we will continue to fight for what's important: investing in people, programs, education, and creating a Fairfax that works for everyone, just as we have always done. Our community will make it through this together. Fairfax County is a great place to live and work and I hope that you quickly feel at home.

FCPS: Opportunities to Shine in Every Area

BY DR. SCOTT BRABRAND
SUPERINTENDENT, FCPS

Welcome to Fairfax County Public Schools! We are so glad you are here. No matter where you are coming from, or what your children's interests may be, we are confident we can meet your family's needs.

FCPS is home to students from 204 countries, who speak more than 200 languages. Our more than 180,000 students come to us from a variety of backgrounds: 15 percent receive special education services, 19 percent participate in English for Speakers of Other Languages classes and 31 percent are economically disadvantaged.

While here, there are opportunities for students to shine in every area: These past few months alone, we were home to a student who placed 21st in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, multiple National Science Bee winners, a Time for Kids student journalist finalist and an International Society of Bassists solo performance competition winner.

Our students are also having a positive impact on our communities: Some have succeeded in getting historical markers erected to honor Black Virginians, digging into history to find and nominate people worthy of recognition by the state. Stu-

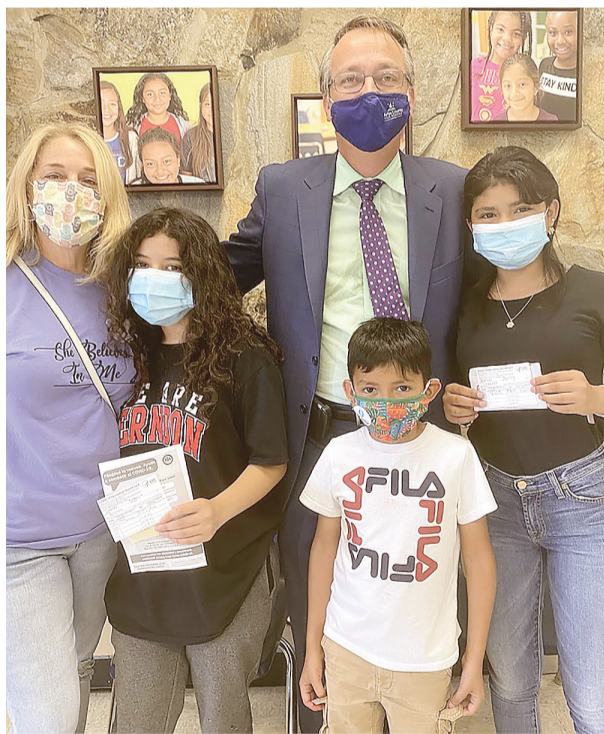


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

From left, Renee Gorman; Kimberlin Jiminez, 13; Scott Brabrand, superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools; Hansel Molina; and Jemmy Molina take a congratulatory photo after Kimberlin and Jemmy receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in August.

dents in elementary and high schools alike spent the past year growing produce on school grounds to help supply local food banks amid food security issues exacerbated by the pandemic. This month alone, some have created a guide to help Afghan refugee students acclimate and assist our staff in meeting their needs.

They conclude their time in our district with impressive accomplishments too. FCPS students last year took almost 16,000 advanced placement exams that can result in college credit. They outperformed their Virginia and national peers this year with an average SAT score of 1201; and 214 students from 16 high schools were named National Merit Semifinalists. Those enrolled in our Career and Technical Education program helped build a new home in Springfield that sold for more than \$1 million, staffed emergency rescue teams and repaired vehicles.

We still cheer for our students after they graduate too. This summer we had the pleasure of rooting for FCPS grads in the Tokyo Olympics: our Olympian alums competed in swimming, track and rifle shooting.

I truly believe there is a place for everyone within FCPS.

We look forward to your children joining our community and helping them reach their potential and find their passion.

CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@RestonConnect

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh

Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Every Year Is Election Year in Virginia

Early voting options expand; you can vote now.

BY SUSAN LAUME AND MARY KIMM
THE CONNECTION

Every year is an Election year in Virginia. And as one of only two states to have Gubernatorial elections the year after the presidential election, Virginia's off year turns out to have national implications.

But this Election matters to local residents for so many reasons, including bond questions and representation in the House of Delegates. In a rare occurrence, every delegate race in Fairfax County is contested by two major party candidates. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General have been critically important in recent years in directing policy as well. Turnout can be lower in the off year, but given how much easier it is to vote in Virginia now, it shouldn't be.

As calendar pages turn toward the Nov. 2 election day for Virginia's State-wide offices nears, voters have many voting options. Driven by COVID-19 work around considerations, Virginia's legislature has authorized new contactless voting options, including in person early voting, voting by mail and voting by dropping your completed ballot in a secure drop box. Early voting in person begins Sept. 17 at three locations.

County voters should begin thinking about their candidate selections, and how they will place their votes.

On the ballot: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, At-

School Bond Question

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

torney General, your member of the House of Delegates, and a School Bond Question for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Sample ballots are posted <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/elections/sample-ballots>.

DROP BOXES will be available at Fairfax County early voting locations, and on election day, at all polling places, during voting hours. Voters may return their completed, sealed "mail in" ballots to a secure drop box, without involving the U.S. Postal Service. The drop boxes, located either outside of regular voting rooms or near building entrances, provide a quick, contact-free way to assure one's ballot is received, and without need to affix postage to return it. The Fairfax County Government building also has a secure drop box installed outside, permitting voters to drop off

SEE EVERY YEAR, PAGE 10



PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

This meeting will be held virtually. Please use the information below to join via Zoom.

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://bit.ly/3kDtch1>

Meeting ID: 820 4699 7634

Passcode: 556636

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://bit.ly/3i6isGd>

Meeting ID: 834 1684 2752

Passcode: 316167

Members are encouraged to provide comments on Reston Association's 2022 and 2023 Capital and Operating budgets at this public hearing.

Get a 24-step vehicle inspection for just \$20

Since 1933, the Safety Inspection Program has helped keep Virginia's motorists safe, with affordable annual checkups that ensure your car - and all those around you - are roadworthy, reliable and ready to go. Learn more at vasafetyinspection.com.

Feed Your Soul
VISIT
Reston Art Gallery and Studios
EIGHT artists
EIGHT perspectives

- Paintings • Mixed Media • Jewelry • Art Objects • Sculpture

Watch artists at work

New shows every month
Open every weekend • SAT, 10am-5pm • SUN, 12pm-5pm
Crafts for Kids - Free, every Saturday, 10am
On the lakeside of **Lake Anne Plaza** at the **ART** sign

11400 Washington Plaza West RestonArtGallery.com

Cross County Trail Connects Pathways, History, and People



Friends J.J. Dickinson, Susan Lesley, and Kim McCleskey, meet regularly to walk the cross county trail for exercise and friendship. (Aug. 2020)



Friends, Nora deGroot and Kaitlyn Meriowsky, volunteer together to have fun while keeping the cross county trail beautiful and building their community service hours (Oct. 2020).

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

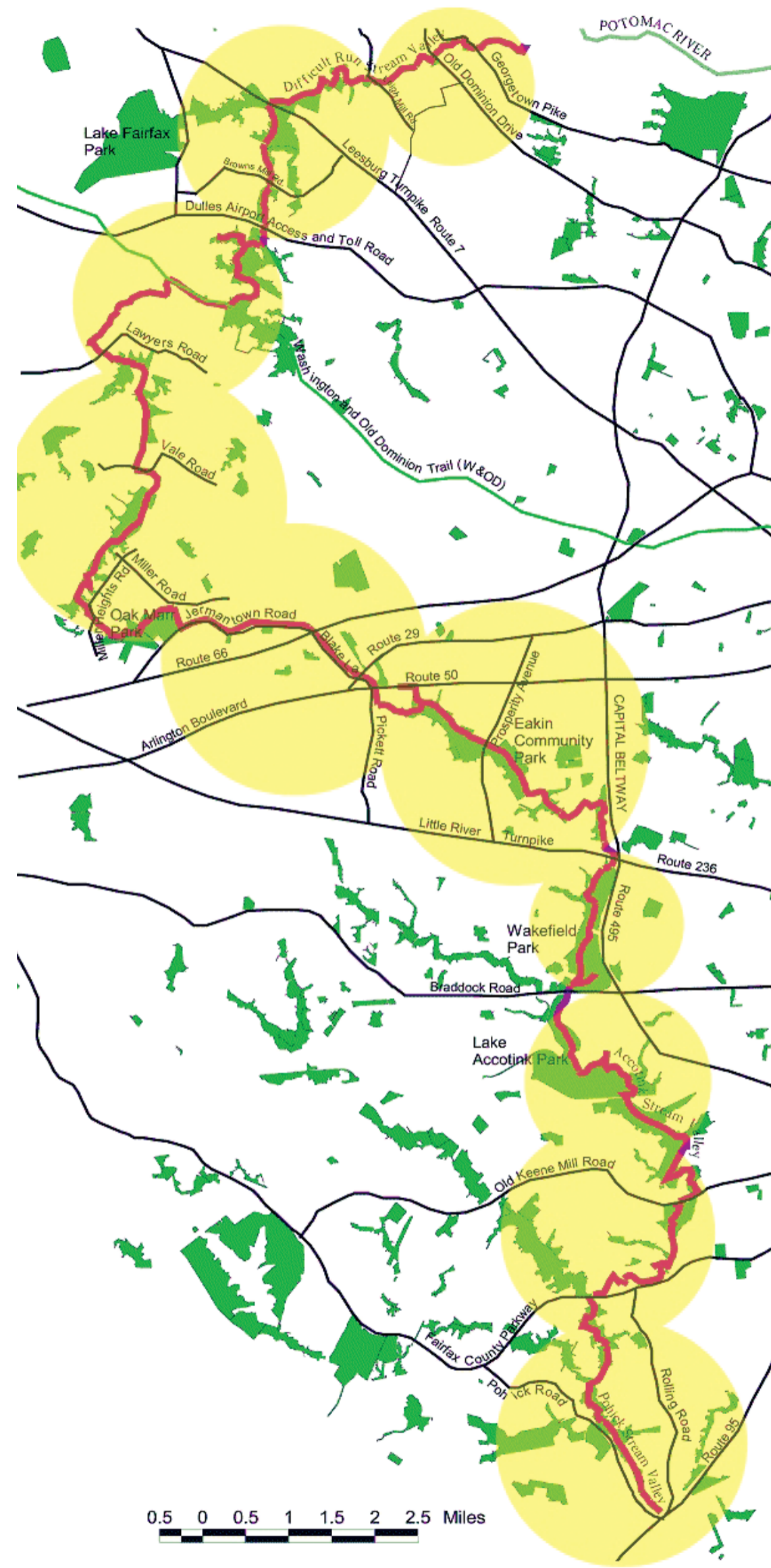
Stretching in a long, meandering ribbon of green, the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail runs north and south for the length of Fairfax County from the Potomac River to the Occoquan River, linking parks, stream valleys, nature trails. The trail was conceptualized by citizen activists and supported by then Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly, for whom the trail is named. In 2000, the Board allocated \$900,000 to link what had

been green islands of parkland and trails. Today the trail system, over 40 miles long, provides a meandering green oasis within a county undergoing rapid urbanization. The trail helps protect streams and wetlands as it passes along water, meadows, and through development, often linking people as well as parkland.

Most of the Cross County Trail runs through stream valley parkland, including some of the county's best and wildest parks, Great Falls, Wakefield and Laurel Hill. Walking provides a good opportunity to see cross country. PAGE 10



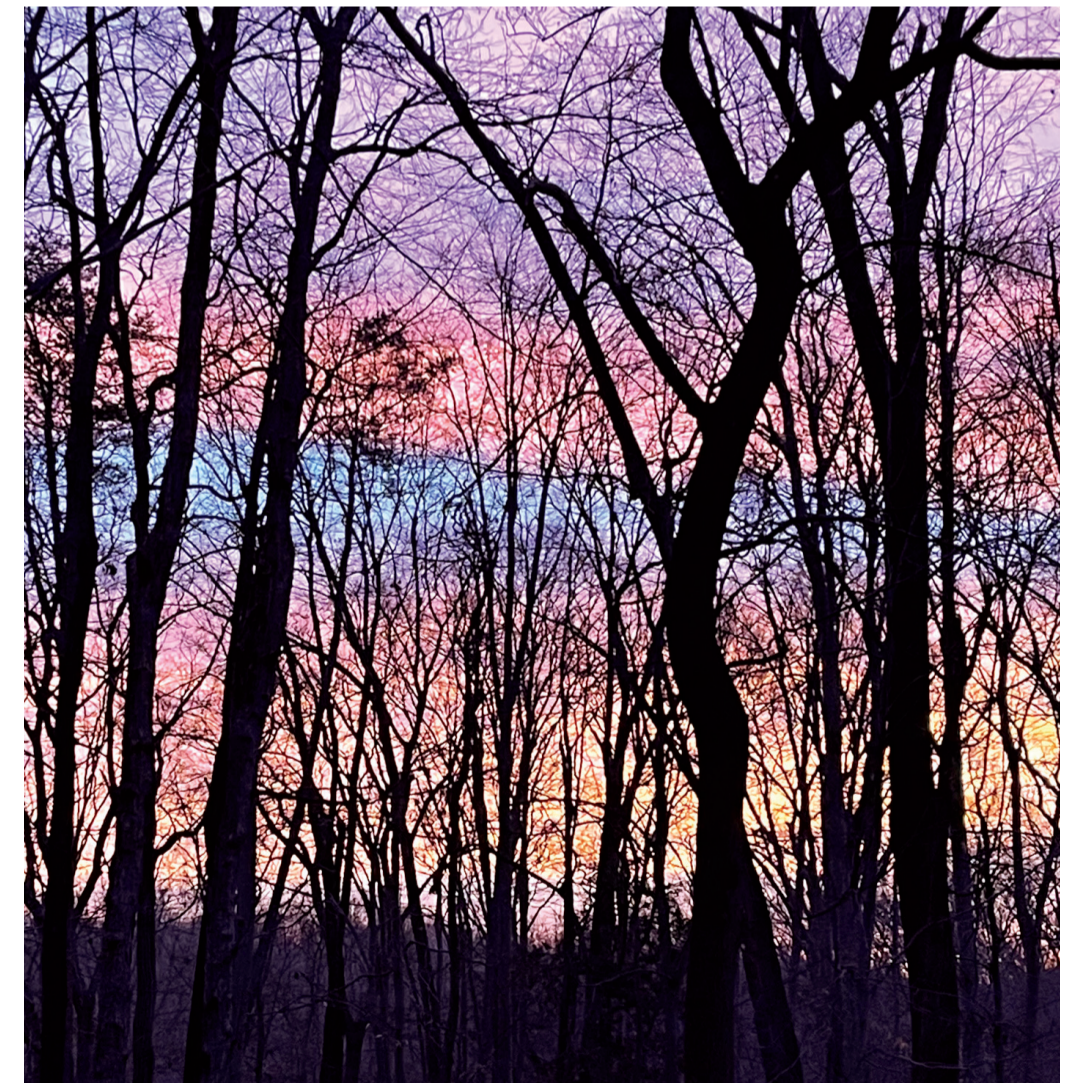
Geologist Cynde Sears points out metagraywacke formed in the Potomac Gorge. (March 2020)



The Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail links green space and parks along Fairfax County stream valleys. More detailed maps are available online. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/cross-county-trail/maps>



The historic Barrel Bridge, built by inmates, now serves cross county trail users where once a rail line moved materials across the Occoquan Workhouse/Lorton Prison grounds (March 2020).



The trail exhibits the beauty of nature to be discovered in all seasons of the year from dawn to sunset. (Jan. 2021).



Stefie Pratt-Green and Levi use an improvement to the fair-weather crossing on the Pohick Stream portion of Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail. (June 2021)



Dog walker Kristen Furman and Carter, are familiar faces to other regular trail users in the Laurel Hill Park section sometimes treating cross county trail friends to homemade doggie ice cream (July 2021).

Cross County Trail Connects Pathways, History, and People

FROM PAGE 9
nity to view a cross section of the county's topography and development, and to get a glimpse into the changes that have occurred to the land over time. Hikers near the Potomac River can see evidence of early geologic shifts that changed the course of the river and created large rock formations, seeing river rock now high on overlook ridges.

The trail is a haven for wildlife of all kinds, making it attractive for those who desire a leisurely stroll observing nature, as well as those using the trail for faster paced exercise, jogging or cycling. In the Spring, midway on the trail within Wakefield Park, Virginia Bluebells blanket the forest floor with their blue and pink flowers. Tadpoles wiggle in vernal trail pools; and one might spot a fawn stashed napping in tall grasses awaiting its mother's return.

All year, in the southern section, the history of the area comes quickly to mind as the brick watchtowers and dairy silos rise high, marking the past of the former Lorton prison and workhouse that operated from 1910 through 2001, now Laurel Hill Park. Evidence of inmate enterprise remains visible in the old buildings scattered through the park, many made from bricks manufactured from clay taken from the nearby Occoquan River.

The Cross County Trail plays a role in building community too. Regular trail users make new acquaintances and strengthen the bonds of existing ones, using the trail as a meeting place for friends exercising together. The park authority notes that users might



Bluebells brighten the cross county trail along Accotink Creek in April/May, (April 2018) one of many species of native wildflowers found along the trail throughout the seasons.

“walk or run, with a child or a pet, ride a bike or a horse.” Many friendships have blossomed on the Cross County Trail, along with the wildflowers.

More <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/cross-county-trail>

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Every Year Is Election Year in Virginia

FROM PAGE 7

their ballots there 24/7; providing a return option when early voting sites are not open. Drop boxes are available for use on election day at all polling places from 6 am - 7 pm.

Those wishing to vote early, by mail, can request a ballot starting now. Ballots are sent to requestors as received, beginning 45 days before the election; that's beginning mid-September. Once marked and sealed, ballots may be returned by mail, or to the special secure drop boxes at the early voting locations outside of the mail stream.

Details on voting by mail are available here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee-voting-mail>

EARLY IN-PERSON voting locations are open Sept. 17 - Oct. 30 at three government center sites: Fairfax County, Mount Vernon, and North County.

Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location.

Early in-person absentee voting is available for the November 2021 General & Special Elections at the following three locations from now through Oct. 30.

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax 22035

- ❖ Mt. Vernon Governmental Center

2511 Parkers Ln, Alexandria 22306

- ❖ North County Governmental Center

1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

Thirteen additional early in-person voting sites are open Oct. 21 - Oct. 30.

- ❖ Burke Centre Library

5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke

- ❖ Centreville Regional Library

14200 St. Germain Dr, Centreville

- ❖ Franconia Governmental Center

6121 Franconia Rd, 22310

- ❖ Gerry Hyland Government Center

8350 Richmond Hwy, 22309

- ❖ Great Falls Library

9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

- ❖ Herndon Fortnightly Library

768 Center St, Herndon

- ❖ Mason Governmental Center

6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

- ❖ McLean Governmental Center

1437 Balls Hill Rd, McLean

- ❖ Providence Community Center

3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax

- ❖ Sully Governmental Center

4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly

- ❖ Thomas Jefferson Library

7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church

- ❖ Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library

7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

- ❖ West Springfield Governmental Center

6140 Rolling Rd, Springfield

HOURS OF OPERATION

Weekdays:

Fairfax County Government Center 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

All other locations 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. (check beginning dates)

Saturday (Oct. 23, and Oct. 30)

All locations 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday (Oct. 24)

All locations 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The list of early voting sites, their addresses, and days/hours of operation and more can be found on the Board of Elections website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections.

Another early option, in-person curbside voting is available at every early voting location for people 65 or older or with a physical disability. But the elections website warns: curbside voting doesn't put you at the front of the line, and voters should expect to wait. Voters are encouraged to go to the Fairfax County Government Center which has 20 curbside spaces set aside. Curbside voting also is available on election day, Nov. 2. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/disability-services>

On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you will be able to vote.

Questions about early voting, including voter registration, voting options, damaged ballots, and ballot tracking may be addressed to the Board of Elections at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov, or by calling 703 222.0776, Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Feel-Good Places and Times In Reston and Herndon

**Favorite places
and events.**

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In 2021, the longing to return to the favorite places and events in our communities has never been stronger. Most of us spent much of 2020 homing within our four walls, protecting ourselves and loved ones from COVID.

Vaccination rates are rising, and people are returning to those favorite places, the feel-good spaces that are easily accessible and evoke emotion. A good place draws us in through all our senses and what is or is not happening there.

In an informal survey, we asked people to name a few places in their communities that mattered to them in 2021, which made them feel good, prideful, and alive. Spots they can be themselves, and where stress melts away. They may not make the iconic sites global travelers have on their bucket lists, but they are the most rewarding to people living in Reston, the Town of Herndon, and Herndon.

SEE FEEL-GOOD, PAGE 16



Lake Audubon, Reston

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The Plaza Fountain is the focal point and gathering place of Lake Anne Village Center. The three abstract rounded forms by artist James Rossant resemble a family.



Ice skating at Reston Town Center



The Lake Anne Farmers Market drew over 1,900 patrons on opening day, Saturday, May 1, and continues to draw record crowds with offerings from 30 vendors featuring fresh produce, berries, veggies, bakery, meat, fish, dairy, and more throughout the season. It is scheduled to run through Dec. 4.



The award-winning Reston Holiday Parade will return in 2021 with balloon figures, musical groups, dancers, and volunteers distributing thousands of jingle bells to children. It starts at 11 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving. (File photo 2019)



The indie craft fair market held on Saturdays Lake Anne Plaza May through September proves a winner shopping destination.

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like about your community?

By MERCIA HOBSON, THE CONNECTION



From left, Kaira Mere, 4, Lucky Mere, and Abigail Lisper:

There's a live band downtown, Friday Night Live!, the W&OD Trail, parks, and it's quiet.

- Abigail Lisper

"I've always lived in Herndon. I moved out (in 2014) to Springfield, but returned. Herndon is home.

- Lucky Mere



[Looking back 50 years, what I loved about Herndon then and now], Herndon then was welcoming. Herndon now is striving to keep its sense of community."

— Steve Mitchell. He was accompanying his wife Wanda on her 50+1 Herndon High School Reunion event, a tour of the renovated HHS.



From left, Liz Korson, Todd Korson, and Hogan, their 6-month-old rescue.

"I love the trees, trails, [and it's] family-oriented. Reston is quiet, and there are nice places like this to hang out with others in the community." - Liz Korson, a 17-year resident of Reston

Dog friendliness is important.

- Todd Korson



"I like the idea and diversity of Reston, the community feel. I like the planning of the community with lots of trees."

-Rich Blum of Reston

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The Hunter Mill District: Celebrating Diversity

Nearly 130,000 people call Hunter Mill District home.

BY WALTER ALCORN
HUNTER MILL SUPERVISOR

Welcome to Fairfax County and to Hunter Mill District! As a long-time resident of our district, I am very happy that you have chosen this area for your home. You and your family will enjoy our vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, as well as our excellent amenities, including great schools, parks, trails, public art, and shopping.

Please take a few minutes to review the information The Connection is providing in this Newcomers Guide. The best asset you will find in Hunter Mill District is our residents. Nearly 130,000 people call Hunter Mill District home, according to the latest U.S. Census data, covering Reston, Vienna, the southwest corner of Tysons and parts of greater Herndon. Hunter Mill is one of nine supervisory districts of Fairfax County, whose total population in the 2020 census came in at 1.15 million.

While Hunter Mill District includes many different neighborhoods and housing options, the one thing in common is an engaged community that cares deeply about our quality of life



Supervisors Dan Storck and Walter Alcorn with Chairman Jeff McKay, after the Tour de Hunter Mill.

and helping each other. This is evident with the outpouring of generosity we receive every year when my office hosts Stuff the Bus food donation drives and a Coat Closet for helping our vulnerable neighbors stay warm.

If you love the outdoors, you picked a great place to live! Everywhere you look, you will see residents out and about on bikes and scooters, walking or running on our trails and roads. During the spring, I hope you will register to participate in the Tour de Hunter Mill, an opportunity to bicycle through our District at a leisurely (or faster if you want!) pace with

family, friends and neighbors.

Please plan to be involved as much as you can in your new community – join the PTA at your children’s schools, contact your faith community about opportunities to volunteer, and find out how to become involved with your homeowner’s association (HOA). One of my most important priorities as your supervisor is to provide a transparent and participatory local government, and participation does not happen without an engaged citizenry.

Listed on this page are a number of ways for you to be informed about the many issues we are work-



Walter Alcorn in front of his house with his Rustic Love sign, a wooden sign made by kids and families in Vienna as a community fundraiser to support local food-insecure families. The sign sales have raised more than \$120,000, and will be for sale at Vienna’s Oktoberfest on Oct. 2. <https://rusticlove.org/>

ing in Hunter Mill District in 2021, including defeating COVID-19, reducing traffic and managing development, getting the Silver Line Phase 2 open, combating climate change, rethinking and re-emphasizing public safety and security, voting and more. I look forward to hearing from you.

Contact Information

Supervisor Walter Alcorn’s Hunter Mill District Office: North County Governmental Center 1801 Cameron Glen Dr. Reston, VA 20190 Call: 703-478-0283

Email: huntermill@fairfax-county.gov Webpage: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/

Subscribe to Hunter Mill District News Weekly E-Newsletter: Send an email to huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov and request to be a subscriber. The newsletter is emailed every Wednesday.

Follow on Social Media:

Twitter: @WalterAlcornFFX

Facebook: @SupervisorWalterAlcorn

Instagram: @walteralcornffx

Additional Resources

Fairfax County Website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax Health District Information/Resources for COVID-19: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS): www.fcps.edu

The Hunter Mill District Representative on the School Board: Melanie Meren Call: 571-423-1082 Email: www.fcps.edu/index.php/staff/melanie-k-meren

Reston and Herndon See Growth in 2021

FROM PAGE 4

Metro, 300 feet from the station, Penzance plans 555 Herndon Parkway. On April 6, 2021, Penzance submitted a revision plan to the Herndon Town Council, suggesting a reduction in the height of the previously proposed 23-story tower to be similar to the two 12-story residential buildings planned. The tower plan allows a maximum of 8,000 square feet of retail and 325,000 square feet of office space. In the revision, the amount of office space remains the same.

Changes include a rearrangement of the open space and buildings. According to Lisa Gilleran, director of community development in Herndon, a rearrangement of the footprint could possibly provide a 10 percent increase in the number of residential units. Town Manager Bill Ashton noted that Penzance is aware of the council’s desire for additional workforce housing.

The second development at the

Herndon Station is the Woodland Park East Development by Tishman Speyer. It is located a half-mile from the station and is proposed as 1.6 million square feet of office and residential on 3.15 acres. It includes public parks, open spaces, and two office towers. In addition to the parks, Tishman Speyer will contribute money to buy land for an athletic field.

Looking further west outside the corporate limits of the Town of Herndon, the Innovation Center Station is located along Sunrise Valley Drive in Herndon. Arrowbrook Centre is a contemporary master-planned, mixed-use community that encompasses over 2.25 million square feet of residences, offices, stores, and eateries and is located a half-mile walk from the Innovation Center station.

Nearby are two transit-oriented developments, reducing dependence on automobiles. One is the Herndon Innovation Center South



Innovation Center Station is located in the median of Dulles Toll Road/Airport Access Highway near the intersection of Route 28.

Development, developed by Rocks Engineering. It is a short walk to the Innovation Station and has 1.5 million square feet of mixed-use development, including residential, office, hotel, and retail. The

second within a mile but outside of Herndon and located in Sterling is Wayside at Innovation, developed by Chantilly Crushed Stone.

Meanwhile, in the Town of Herndon, construction has yet to

begin for the Penzance and Woodland Park East developments at the Herndon Station. In the historic district, the Town of Herndon awaits Comstock to get shovels in the ground for the agreed redevelopment. Next door to the pending redevelopment, an Italian restaurant is planned in the former Ice House Café, closed two years ago.

Across the street, Aslin Beer Co. displays a banner across its second building announcing “Knead, a pizza bakery, and coffee.” Jarad Slipp opened Knead Wine in Middleburg this September offering Neapolitan-style pizza. Heading east on Elden Street, OutBack Steak House cleared the land for construction on their new restaurant.

Beanstalk, an indoor vertical farm, is moving operations to the Town of Herndon. It will invest more than \$2 million to expand production and create 29 new jobs. Beanstalk produces a variety

SEE NEW SILVER, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Greetings from the Sully District!

BY KATHY SMITH
SULLY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Welcome to the Sully District. I am your Sully District Supervisor, Kathy Smith, and I proudly represent our community on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. At the crossroads of major highways and adjacent to Washington Dulles International Airport, the Sully District is dotted with thriving office parks and wonderful amenities.

A great thing about living in the Sully District is the general array of public events and activities that happen throughout the year. Coming up on Oct. 16, 2021 we have the annual Centreville Day celebration – a local favorite. The event includes family-friendly activities, enter-

tainment, and a parade.

The Starlight Drive-in Cinema takes place on Saturdays in August as part of the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series. Come watch a movie under the stars at the Trinity Centre in Centreville. Admission is free.

Our region is also lucky to include the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum. If you have not been yet, I highly recommend visiting soon and taking in a movie at their IMAX movie theater. Just recently, the museum changed its policy, and time-entry passes are no longer needed for entry.

The Field at Commonwealth is a 169,264-square-foot mixed-use site located in Chantilly. It features a relatively new Wegmans grocery



Kathy Smith

store and is surrounded by several restaurants and stores with different amenities.

Another great advantage in our region is our abundance of public facilities. Fairfax County has an excellent public school system. Every day of the week, there are activities and educational programs at both Chantilly and Centreville Regional Libraries. You can learn about new technologies and join a book discussion group.

The Sully Community Center is currently under construction and is slated for an early-2022 opening. It will be a great place for older adults to explore, for young adults to pursue a hobby, and for people of all ages to engage with members of the community. Also featured in

our district is the Sully Senior Center which features engaging activities, learning and most of all, fun. Activities at the senior center are as diverse as the needs and interests of the community it serves.

Fairfax County also has an exceptional park system. The Cub Run RECenter offers an indoor pool, nature program, and a gym. EC Lawrence Park's 650 acres include: the Walney Visitor Center, athletic fields, trails, a picnic area, and an outdoor amphitheater. The Sully Historic Site, completed in 1799, was home to Northern Virginia's first Representative to Congress. Guided tours as well as programs and camps happen all year long. The Sully Woodland core properties comprise roughly 2,000 acres of open space park land in the district.

I hope you will find opportuni-

ties to get involved in your community. Sully District has representatives on 80-plus boards, authorities, and commissions. If you or someone you know would be interested in one of these positions, please contact my office to inquire about openings.

Furthermore, if you need any help with county services or any other issues, please feel welcome to contact my office any time via email at sully@fairfax-county.gov or by phone at 703-814-7100. We have two community rooms that are available at the Sully Governmental Center for Fairfax County residents to use, free of charge. You can reserve our community rooms and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sully.



Aslin Beer Co. displays a banner across its second building announcing Knead, a pizza bakery, and coffee coming soon.



An Italian restaurant is planned in the former Ice House Café, which closed two years ago.



Herndon High School renovation at the cost of \$83.9 million and designed by Hughs Group Architects added more than 138,558 square feet to the building constructed in 1980 and expanded capacity for 2,500 students. Work should be completed by summer 2022.

New Silver Line Stations Beyond Wiehle Have Yet to Open

FROM PAGE 12

of produce for grocery sales.

In Reston, the Washington Plaza area adjacent to Lake Anne holds historic designations from Fairfax County, the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, and the National Park Service. Some consider it the heart and soul of Reston. In 1998, Fairfax County established the 44.12 acre Lake Anne Village Center Commercial Revitalization Area. The County has continued to invest resources toward reinvestment and revitalization. In the summer of 2021, options for further plans were discussed.

2021 saw the fruits of Reston Town Center's make-over of its 30-year-old development. Boston Properties renovated approximately 3.6 million square feet of the mixed-use center, installed artificial green turf at and around the ice-skating rink, and modernized the public places.

Volkswagen Group of America Inc. is relocating its North America headquarters to Reston Town Center. It signed a 20-year-lease agreement with Boston Properties, Inc. for 196,000 square feet as its anchor tenant in its new 1.1 million square foot development in the next phase of Reston Town Center. The new extension will include a two-tower, 1.1 million square foot office development informally referred to as Reston Next. It is located adjacent to the Reston Town Center Station on Metro's Silver Line extension.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The seven-member Herndon Town Council meets in the Herndon Council Chambers. Council consisting of a mayor and six councilmembers meet to establish Town government policy, act on local resolutions and ordinances, set tax rates, approve the annual Town budget, appoint members to the town's boards, and provide policy guidance for the Town Manager.



The Comstock Herndon Venture LC \$85 million Herndon Redevelopment Project on 4.675 acres will feature 273 apartments, 17,000 square feet of retail space, a reduced 16,265-square feet Arts Center, and an eight-level with a 726-space parking garage.

PHOTOS BY MERGIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

1300 TABLES! 100% OPEN! NO TIME SLOTS OR SESSIONS!
DOORS OPEN BETWEEN BUILDINGS! Buy! Sell! Trade!

VPN

NATION'S GUN SHOW

OCTOBER 1, 2 & 3

VOTE
PRO-GUN
NOV. 2nd!!!

Dulles Expo

4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, VA 20151
FRI: 3-8 | SAT: 9-5 | SUN: 10-5
VA & Utah Concealed Carry Courses
Saturday or Sunday (757) 331-1439

\$1 Off One Adult Admission



540-951-1344 | www.TheNationsGunShow.com | www.ShowmastersGunShows.com

CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Obituary



Donna M. Brother came from Washington State to Virginia to do her Bachelor's degree. She enjoyed most types of exercises, in particular hiking. In addition, she loved cats and took care of other people's cat in her neighbor all the time. She also enjoyed gardening and traveling. She became the President of the Ski Club of Washington on the 2000s, and she also organized 30 or more trips with her fellow hikers through Europe. Donna retired from the Administrative Offices of the Court house making a lot of friends. She will be greatly missed with her simple and warm personality, and always hosting her friends in her Herdon home. Yours in Hiking Donna!

PRESSURE WASHING PROS

In Business for 25 Years



- Soft Wash
- Deck Cleaning/Staining
- Fences
- Driveways

pwashingpros.com

(703) 378-8645

Call the licensed and bonded pros with the best pricing in the NoVA area today.

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

Employment

57 Year Old Vienna Based Travel Club

Is hiring a part time bookkeeper
16 hours/ 2 days per week
Computer and accounting knowledge required
Friendly staff and great working environment!

Send resume to:
trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

GENERAC

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-947-1479

FREE

7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Upgrade Your Home with a NEW METAL ROOF

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!



Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE
1-844-902-4611

LIMITED TIME OFFER

60% off
YOUR INSTALLATION

+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% off

Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE
Metal Roofs
Limited time offer.
Expires 12/31/21

ERIE Metal Roofs
New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires December 31st 2021. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved.

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

GENERAC
PWRCELL
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE
A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!*
1 (833) 688-1378

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.



Medicare has changed.

Find out how it can affect you.

For **FREE** Medicare Supplement information from Physicians Life Insurance Company, call:

1-833-657-1636

or visit MedSupBenefit.com/vapress

We are not connected with, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare Program. I understand I have no obligation. This is a solicitation of insurance. A licensed agent/producer may contact you. (MD, VA: These policies are available to people under age 65 eligible for Medicare due to a disability). (VA: For a complete description of policy exclusions, limitations, and costs or other coverage details, please contact your insurance agent or the company). Policy form number L030, L035, L036, L037, L038, F001, F002 (OK: L0300K, L0350K, L0360K, L0370K, L0380K; TN: L030TN, L035TN, L036TN, L037TN; L038TN, F001TN, F002TN; L030VA, L035VA, L036VA, L037VA, L038VA). 6243_A

Find us on Facebook and become a fan!

www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
The Connection to Your Community
www.connectionnewspapers.com



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK, PLEASE

www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

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

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

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

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

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Leaf Filter
GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & **10% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*
+ 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!**
SENIORS & MILITARY!
WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

Promo Code: 285

*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-877-614-6667

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 WA UBI# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705182153A License# LEAFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29598-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 365920918 Registration# PC6275 Registration# IR231804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2705169445 License# 26200022 License# 262000403 License# 0086590 Registration# H-19114

CALENDAR

SEPT. 25-NOV. 1

Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival. 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Cost is \$28 per child and \$6 per parent, children 2 and under free. The event will feature a range of activities, including several moon bounces, a petting zoo, the Express Train for both adults and children to ride. Visit www.restonfarm.com. Call 703-759-0000 or email info@RestonFarm.com.



The Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival will take place Sept. 25-Nov. 1, 2021.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 30

Craft Happy Hour. 5-6 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Grab a friend, grab a drink and seat, and roll up your sleeves for a 'craft hour!' AR Workshop Alexandria will be on-site to show you how to craft the cutest knit pumpkins. This fun crafty celebration is complimentary for the first 50 guests who register. Visit: www.tysonscenter.com/Events

FRIDAY/OCT. 1

Josh Groban Performs. 8 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons Corner. Visit <https://www.capitalonehall.com>.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Vienna Oktoberfest. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tens of thousands to flock to Vienna Oktoberfest for music, shopping, food, fun and beer. Choice food, vendors, music and entertainment, plenty of kids' activities, locally-sourced beer and wine selections. Proceeds from Oktoberfest benefit the VBA Foundation, which supports charitable organizations in the Greater Vienna area. Presented by the Vienna Business Association and Town of Vienna, on historic Church Street. All ages are welcome, and admission is free.

- ❖ Live entertainment on three stages: Main Stage, Kid's Stage, Acoustic Stage;
 - ❖ Beer/Wine/German Food Garden featuring the Caboose Brewing Company;
 - ❖ Beer and Multinational Food offerings located on Mill Street;
 - ❖ Free kids activities, games and entertainment on the Town Green;
 - ❖ Business Expo Showcase;
 - ❖ Vendor Marketplace;
- Visit www.viennaoktoberfest.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

The Seldom Scene. 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center, Reston. What does it take for a bluegrass band to remain popular for more than four decades? For The Seldom Scene, it has taken talented musicians, a signature sound and a solid repertoire, as well as a delightful sense of fun. Cost: \$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Outdoor Movie Night. 6-9 p.m. At Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join the Fairfax Library Foundation for food trucks and a movie under the moon. Bring your chairs and blankets to Chantilly Regional Library for an outdoor sing-along screening of "Mamma Mia!" (2008). All proceeds benefit the Fairfax County Public Library.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

The McLean 5K Run. At McLean Square Shopping Center, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Registration, PPU, Warmup begins at 7 a.m.; Race begins at 8 a.m. Hosted by the McLean Community Center with the support of sponsors Century 21 New Millennium and the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, the race features a USATF certified course through the heart of McLean and is designed to appeal to runners of all abilities. The proceeds of the run benefit the McLean Community Foundation. Visit: <https://mcleancenter.org/special-events/mclean-5k>

SUNDAY/OCT. 3

MPAArtFest. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Central Park, McLean. A day full of art, music, food

and fun. This year's festival features the work of 40-plus selected artists, some of D.C.'s music performers, food vendors, and a variety of children's activities. A one-day juried fine art show and sale, McLean Central Park is transformed into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of over 40 acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region. This year's performers include: Blues Alley Youth Jazz Orchestra (10 a.m.), Sheyda Do'a Band (11 a.m.), Nataly Merezuk's Hot Band (12 p.m.), Project Lo crea (1 p.m.), Irene Jalenti (2 p.m.), and Josanne Francis (3 p.m.). Visit www.mpaart.org or email info@mpaart.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 3

Ronald McDonald House Red Shoe 5k Run & Walk. 7 a.m. to 12 noon. At Bull Run Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Register today for the 11th Annual Red Shoe 5k Run & Walk to support families served by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington, D.C. The Red Shoe 5k at Bull Run Special Events Center is a mixed gravel and paved course with a scenic route, free and easy parking. You can run, walk, volunteer, or just come out to enjoy our food trucks and activities. Visit www.redshoe5k.org to register and volunteer, or contact redshoe5k@rmhcdc.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 4

LGBTQ+ Ally Week Party on the Plaza. 6 p.m. McLean Community Center, McLean. Join them for a celebration of the great LGBTQ+ people in our lives and the allies who walk with them! Music, games and all of the supplies for creating a unique LGBTQ+ ally shirt will be provided to participants. This event is for family members to participate in together to show their support for the LGBTQ+ community. Free t-shirts will be given to the first 50 people who register.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 6

"From the Heart: A Transgender Virginian's Story." 6:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Join Ann Murdoch, a member of Equality Virginia's Transgender Advocacy Speakers Bureau, for an evening of connection and learning as she shares her story as a transgender woman. Her talk will be followed by plenty of time for dialogue and questions. Moderated by the McLean High School Gay-Straight Alliance.

OCT. 7-17

"The Book of Mamaw." At Boro Park at The Boro Tysons, 8350 Broad Street, Tysons Corner. October 7 at 7:30 PM, October 8 at 7:30 PM, October 9 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, October 10 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, October 14 at 7:30 PM, October 15 at 7:30 PM, October 16 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, and October 17 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Visit www.1ststage.org

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

ParktoberFest. Noon to 5 pm. At Middlegate House, 5235 Walney Road, Centreville. Take in the performances by The Walkaways and Jay Byrd. Sample local brews. Shop arts, crafts and specialty vendors from community businesses. Activities and information booths will have something for everyone to enjoy. Call 703-631-0013.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...	Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
Quality Tree Service & Landscaping	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
Summer Cleanup...	
	Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.
25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358	
24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	

Landscape Drainage	Landscape Drainage
	
A JES Services, Inc Company Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts	
Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More	
Your Neighborhood Company since 1987!	
703-772-0500 www.ProDrainage.com	
VA. Licensed Class A Contractor	



Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to any or all of our 15 papers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE



Scan Hardly Believe It



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Life goes on. My warranty has been extended for another 90 days as all three scans from Sept. 23rd indicated stable and/or no new metastases. News with which I am extremely fond of saying, I can live. Though the radiologist's report that I received lists both non small cell lung cancer and papillary thyroid cancer as "the indication," my endocrinologist feels what I have is thyroid cancer. I wish I could say that will be for the lawyers to argue. but peculiarities of law and the three-year statute of limitations in Maryland makes a final resolution unlikely. Therefore, I will continue to live with my amazing good fortune and possible misdiagnosis as part and parcel of how I roll.

And how I roll, as you regular readers know is chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy once again - in that order, and diagnostic scans every three weeks in the beginning and eventually and presently, every three months. As such, over these nearly 13 years of being a cancer patient, I figure I've probably had at least 50 CT scans and another 20-plus MRIs, plus an occasional PET scan. The point being that over the years, I've done an awful lot of waiting for scan results with my life/immediate future hanging in the balance. And 'balance' is exactly what one needs to endure these incredibly anxious situations. Though I'm fairly experienced at this juncture, the actual moment of truth when I receive the email containing my results is oft-putting to say the least and downright heart-stopping to say the most.

However, my personality is perfectly suited for these ongoing challenges. I never presume the worst. I never woe is me. I never bemoan systemic delays in communicating the results to me. As my close friend John would most definitely say: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." I never put the proverbial cart before the horse. I can take it. No problem. My wife, Dina, on the other hand, cannot. For her, the results cannot arrive soon enough. Granted, immediate feedback would be much preferred. But, that's never been the process. I can accept it. Dina, not so much.

That being said, I will admit that after all these years/scans/waiting for results, I have become less able to take it all in stride. It's as if a layer of patience and understanding of the process has been worn away with time. Even though I've mostly received good news (unexpectedly given my original "13 month to two year" prognosis - in Feb., 2009), I have had my share of disappointing news. But on the whole, I've been one of the luckier cancer patients. Still, each scan I wait for results is hardly an adventure in wonderland. I am constantly wondering and worrying when the other shoe will drop (the bad news). In fact, opening up the email that contains my scan results literally takes my breath away.

Not to be negative, which I'm not, but during the Team Lourie meeting in late Feb., 2009 when I first met my oncologist and were given all the medical reports/assessments of my recent X-Rays, CT scan, PET scan and surgical biopsy from the pulmonologist, thoracic surgeon, pathologist and internist, it was clear and convincing from all these doctors that I had lung cancer. And my prognosis? Grim, and it was no fairy tale. It was surreal to hear and nearly impossible to process. I have what? When I was told the survival statistics by my oncologist of stage IV non small cell lung cancer patients (me): 2 percent survive beyond two years, my brother asked if there are exceptions. To which my oncologist replied to me: "Could you be the one? Sure." Little did I know that the doctor was being literal. One was the answer. Ever since I heard that, I felt my days were numbered. All these several years later, I'm not exactly counting days, but neither am I counting chickens. I live quarter to quarter and am grateful to do so.

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

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Approximately 24 pedestrian underpasses in Reston improve connectivity throughout the community, many with works of art such as this site-specific nearly 45-year-old bas-relief art mural by Olin Russum at the Moorings Drive Underpass.



Fishing at Snakeden Stream in Reston on Kid's Trout Fishing Day 2021.



Walker Nature Center in Reston is a 72-acre park with trails, nature programs, and summer camps operated by Reston Association.

PHOTO BY MERGIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Feel-Good Places and Times in Reston and Herndon

FROM PAGE 11



The iconic watering hole of the town, Jimmy's Old Town Tavern.



Friday Night Live! Herndon Rocks, D.C.'s best free concert series every Friday, July through September, returned to the Herndon Municipal stage in 2021.



Rotarians collect non-perishable food and hygiene donations on Saturday, Sept. 25. Volunteerism and taking care of neighbors are part of the community spirit in the Town of Herndon.



Cornerstones, in partnership with the Hunter Mill District Supervisor's Office, will operate the Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet for 2021 – 2022. Volunteerism and service are a big part of the Reston community.



Historic Station Street in downtown Herndon.



Kidwell Farm and Frying Pan Farm Park, one of the most popular parks in Fairfax County, preserves and interprets farm life of the 1920s to 1950s.

People from the Town of Herndon gather in the streets to watch the 4th of July fireworks in 2021.



Community Center, Transportation Projects Are on the Horizon

FROM PAGE 3

mit drives.

Estimated project cost is \$85.9 million, with \$19 million of that amount yet to be funded. Construction is anticipated to start in late 2022 and take approximately two-and-a-half years.

Route 50 Improvements

Under normal traffic conditions, the two-mile segment of Route 50 between Route 28 and Stringfellow Road in Chantilly is clogged during the

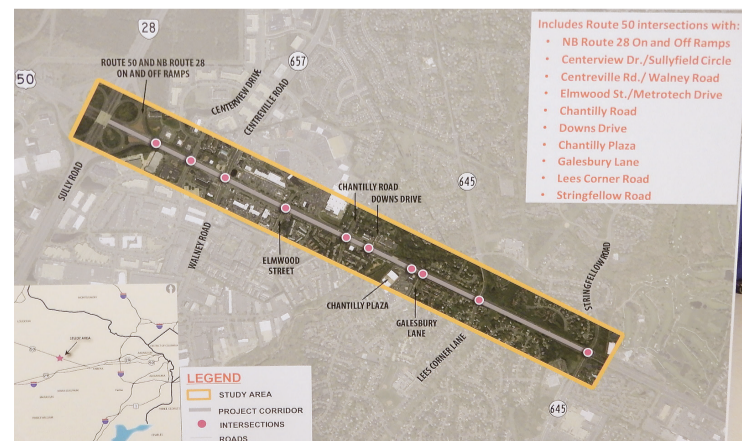
morning and evening rush. It also averages 71,000 vehicles a day and has a high number of crashes.

So VDOT's doing a STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) study to assess how to make this stretch of road function better and safer. According to VDOT engineer Andy Beacher, STARS is used to develop low-cost solutions to traffic problems.

Toward that end, he said, "We studied all the intersections on Route 50 between Stringfellow and Route 28 and are making recommendations. However, there's

no magic bullet for this corridor. It's very congested because of all the commercial development and commuters."

VDOT collected traffic and accident data on seven, signalized intersections in the study area and then examined both short-term solutions that would help immediately, plus mid-term solutions that would provide relief into 2030. The estimated cost range for these improvements is \$8 million to \$11 million. They're not yet funded, but VDOT hopes to get some money via the Smart Scale program.



Map of all the Route 50 intersections involved in the VDOT study.