

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
NOTES FOR VOTERS, PAGE 2 ♦ OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8, 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

## Halloween Fun at Trunk Or Treat

PAGE 12

Brothers (from left) Benjamin, Isaac and James Seibert with lots of candy at Fairfax County police & friends' Trunk-Or-Treat Oct. 19 outside the Fairfax County Government Center.

## Sample Ballot Controversy

PAGE 3

## Disruption, Restoration In Herndon Stream

PAGE 8

## Labor Center Marks 11 Years with Open House

PAGE 4



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## NEWS



Puppy raisers Janet Bartolotto (kneeling) and Ann Vernon, both from Mount Vernon, work with puppy Star while Tim McQuade from Alexandria and Jane Wilson from Manassas gathered with other raisers and puppies for a Pup Party at Sully Government Center for these young pups in training.

### Howl-o-ween Fun for Local Guiding Eyes Puppies

Puppy raisers for guiding eyes gathered with puppies for a Pup Party at Sully Government Center for these young pups in training.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. The journey from playful pup to professional Guiding Eyes dog takes up to three years and can cost up to \$50,000 annually. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization provides all services free of charge to people who are blind or experiencing vision loss. Guiding Eyes relies upon the contributions

of generous donors and volunteer puppy raisers to fulfill its mission.

Puppy Raisers care for and teach puppies to enjoy being with people and cultivate the confidence a future guide dog needs.

They provide hours of patient teaching and numerous socialization journeys over a 12-to-16-month period before returning a well-socialized young adult dog to Guiding Eyes training staff for harness training and placement. [guidingeyes.org](http://guidingeyes.org)

### WMATA Sets Start Date for Silver Line

The six new stations on the Silver Line are due to open Nov. 15, beginning service to Washington Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County. The stations are Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Washington Dulles International Airport, Loudoun Gateway, and Ashburn.

It will be the largest expansion of Metrorail since the system's inception.

On opening day, Metro teams at the six new Silver Line stations will hand out commemorative pennants, a Metro tradition that started when the first station opened in 1976.

The extension completes the final phase of the full 23-mile expansion that began construction in 2009; the first segment opened

five years later. This final segment provides a long-awaited connection to Washington Dulles International Airport, offering visitors a direct connection to destinations around the region.

The Silver Line Extension includes a new rail maintenance and service yard, located on 90 acres of the Washington Dulles International Airport property. The Dulles Rail Yard is the largest rail yard in the Metro system and employs nearly 700 people.

The announcement of a planned opening date follows 18 weeks of testing, training and safety certification efforts by Metro. Metro took control of the Silver Line Extension from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) more than four months ago, after the

project achieved its Operational Readiness Date on June 23, 2022. Since then Metro has been testing the new tracks and equipment, and training staff at the stations, railyard, and maintenance facilities in preparation for opening to the public.

Metro continues to work on a short list of items with the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, expecting to finalize safety certification before opening for passenger service.

Metro Board Members and employees announced the opening in a video, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md8tfV\\_HiR4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md8tfV_HiR4).

Visit [wmata.com/silverline](http://wmata.com/silverline) for more information, including virtual station tours, maps, and connecting bus routes.

### I-66 West Exit to Monument Drive Closing

The exit ramp from I-66 West to Monument Drive in Fair Lakes will close Thursday, Nov. 3, at 8 p.m., for continued construction related to the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project. The ramp will reopen later this year as a full-time, Express Lanes only ramp and will no longer provide access

from the general-purpose lanes on I-66.

The ramp from westbound I-66 to Stringfellow Road in Chantilly is also planned to close for continued, Express-Lanes construction on or about Nov. 10. All work is weather dependent and will be rescheduled should inclement conditions occur.

### Notice for Voters in Towns of Herndon, Clifton and Vienna

Fairfax County voters in the towns of Herndon, Clifton, and Vienna may have recently received a notice from the Virginia Department of Elections in Richmond advising them of an incorrect location and address for their polling place.

The Fairfax County Office of Elections is mailing the voters affected a letter confirming their correct voting location on Election Day.

Additionally, you may find your correct voting location and other correct information here:

Your voter registration record on the Department of Elections Citizen

Portal: [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov)

On the green sample ballot and voter information flyer received in the mail the first week of October from the Fairfax County Office of Elections.

Contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections with questions. 703-222-0776 TTY 711

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Starry Nights

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Political signs pop up surrounding the Herndon Fortnightly Library like mushrooms after a rain.

## FCDC Dems Warn Herndon Voters of ‘Misleading’ Sample Ballot

All sides and academic attorney weigh in.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) warned early voters in the Town of Herndon on Friday, Oct. 28, that a political action committee named Herndon Democrats is distributing a purported Democratic sample ballot in the non-partisan Town of Herndon elections.

The FCDC called the sample ballot “misleading” because it is “inaccurately indicating a Party endorsement in the non-partisan Town of Herndon elections.”

“The distribution of such sample ballots is troublesome and confusing for voters,” said FCDC chair Bryan Graham. “This document, purporting to be a ‘Democratic Sample Ballot,’ is misrepresenting its affiliation with the Party.”

“Party affiliation is a remarkably powerful factor in voting, even among individuals who identify as Independent,” said Richard Kelsey, a former assistant dean and law professor at George Mason, now with the Impresa Legal Group.

“We have great data to show that there’s a really exceptionally small subset of people, somewhere less than one in 10 voters who can be flipped on an issue.”

Herndon’s election was not the only non-partisan election attracting sample ballots this cycle.

“Election officials within the Commonwealth of Virginia are not allowed to provide party designation for local candidates on the ballot.” (§ 24.2-613). According to the Town of Herndon Charter, “Candidates for town offices shall not be identified on the ballot by political affiliation.” The only candidates that may have a party designation on a ballot are those running for federal, statewide, or General Assembly offices,” according to the Virginia Department of Elections.

However, neither the Code of Virginia nor the Town Charter legally precludes political parties, such as the Fairfax GOP and Fairfax Democrats, from producing party-affiliated sample ballots, nor does it prevent PACs from doing so.

On March 22, the FCDC decided not to endorse in the Town of

Herndon election. Heidi Meisenheimer of FCDC argued during the discussion, “We need an endorsement so we can elect a more representative town council .... To tell the voters which candidates match our democratic values.”

Herndon Democrats, PAC-22-00018, is a new political action committee registered with the Virginia State Board of Elections. Cesar del Aguila, an FCDC member present at the failed vote to endorse in the Town of Herndon election, is the treasurer and principal custodian of the books for Herndon Democrats as of April 7, 2022. According to del Aguila, who distributed sample ballots during the first few days of early voting, candidates supported by the Herndon Democrats share Democratic values.

The Herndon Democrats “Democratic Sample Ballot” states at the bottom of its blue paper in a small, light font that it is “Paid for by Herndon Democrats, not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee. It is Printed in-house.”

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee is affiliated with



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

From left, Candidates for Town of Herndon Election 2022, Cesar del Aguila, Pradip Dhakal, Keven LeBlanc Jr., Sheila A. Olem, and Clark A. Hedrick. All but Ole, who is running for Mayor, are running for a Member of Council seat.



Center, Sean Regan is running for Mayor of the Town of Herndon; left, Naila Alam and Donielle Scherff, right, are candidates for Member of the Council.

the Democratic Party of Virginia. The committee is the only official Democratic organization for Fairfax County, including the Town of Herndon. The FCDC sample ballots say, “Paid for by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, fairfaxdemocrats.org, not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.”

“I am outraged that someone would mislead voters that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee supported a (sample) ballot when it was not. Please do your homework. Transparency is just a click away at <https://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/>,” said Herndon Mayor

Sheila Olem.

On Sun., Oct. 30, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, @ElectConnolly, VA-11, tweeted: “It has come to our attention that a misleading sample ballot, inaccurately indicating Party endorsement in the non-partisan Town of Herndon elections, is being distributed at early voting locations. Read the response from FCDC [ffxde.ms/10282022PR](https://ffxde.ms/10282022PR).”

### Reaction by Herndon Democrats

Incumbent Cesar del Aguila, the vice mayor of the Town of Herndon, distributed the Herndon Democrats Democratic Sample

SEE ALL SIDES, PAGE 6



# Since 2011, Improving Immigrants' Lives

## Centreville Labor Resource Center's open house, celebration.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t was celebration time at the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC), on Sunday, Oct. 23, as it held an open house and celebrated the Centreville Immigration Forum's (CIF) 11th anniversary. There was food galore, plus music, children's games, handmade crafts and heartfelt speeches.

"We're so proud of how our diversity is our strength, here in Northern Virginia – and especially in Fairfax County," said the person representing U.S. Rep. Gerry Conolly (D-11th). "Thank you to the CLRC for all you do."

The CIF operates the Labor Resource Center in the Centreville Square shopping center. And because of the CLRC, local day laborers have a safe, welcoming place to seek employment, learn English and improve their job skills. They also provide a capable and affordable source of labor for area residents.

"This is just such a positive thing for the community, and it really upsets me that Congress hasn't been able to reform the immigrations laws," said Oakton resident Loren Hershey. "I've hired CLRC workers to do yard-renovation work and landscaping at my home, and they did a wonderful job. They're smart, attentive, careful, dedicated and very good workers."

About 200 people attended the three-hour celebration. Attendees

feasted on homemade Chuchitos, Guatemalan corn-and-pork tamales; Cacahuete, soup made with chicken, onions and tomatoes; lentils and red sauce; and tamales filled with rice and pork inside a large leaf. The workers' wives made the food, which received rave reviews.

Emceeding the festivities was Jerry Foltz, who founded the CIF with his wife Alice. Due to illness, she was unable to attend the event, but her husband praised the hard work and achievement of the center's staff and volunteers. And in turn, Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) acknowledged their efforts.

"It was a vision of community members Alice and Jerry Foltz, former Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey and [Centreville Square owner] owner A.J. Dvoskin to put together this center," said Smith. "We realize we're all one country, and it's vital that we help our immigrants be integrated into it."

"And that's what's so great about this center," she continued. "Through all its programs, plus its connections to organizations such as WFCM [Western Fairfax Christian Ministries], the CLRC helped [its workers] become part of this community."

A letter was read from county Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay.

Congratulating the CIF on its anniversary, he wrote, "This year's celebration marks more than a

SEE CENTREVILLE LABOR, PAGE 5



CLRC staff and members, with (from left, in back row, center) Kathy Smith, Jerry Foltz and Edgar Aranda.



From left, CIF Development Manager Samantha Zaboli with her son, Samir Minda, 5; CLRC member Jaime Tejada; former CIF Community Organizer John Cano; Sen. George Barker; Jerry Foltz; Edgar Aranda; Claudia Álvarez and Vania Torres.



Elena de León selling her handmade sandals, scarves, purses and jewelry.



From left, CLRC Program Manager Vania Torres and Women's Empowerment Organizer Claudia Álvarez watch Jerry Foltz cut the anniversary cake.



# Centreville Labor Resource Center's Open House, Celebration

FROM PAGE 4

decade of positive effort by CIF to empower workers, develop leaders and improve local, state and federal immigration policy. Since 2011, CIF has fulfilled its mission to implement sustainable programs that provide immigrants with the support needed to improve their lives and integrate into their communities.

"CIF has improved communication and cooperation among organizations serving immigrants, building coalitions and identifying shared goals, in addition to serving as one of the only labor centers in Virginia, here in Fairfax County. Your achievements are a testament to your hard work, dedication and commitment."

McKay also noted that, over the past 11 years, he's had numerous opportunities to witness firsthand the "excellent operation" the CIF has established and said he's "always impressed." Furthermore, he wrote, "I'm so grateful for CIF's work in our region. I look forward to continuing our partnership to make Fairfax County an even better place to live, work, play and raise our families."

Edgar Aranda - who was instrumental in establishing the CLRC's operational framework and helped workers obtain earned wages from unscrupulous employers - also honored the CIF and the labor center it cre-



Cristina Solis Ceto serving a plate of food.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

ated. "It's 11 years, and this is history," he said. "[The CLRC] is welcoming and inclusive, and that's what we want."

The final speaker, Sen. George Barker (D-39th), discussed what he hopes will happen in the Virginia General Assembly. "We're going to try to provide in-state tuition for Dreamers and those in similar situations," he said. "We're going to keep fighting and trying to get that funding back in place to help the students who've worked hard all their lives in school. They should be able to get their college degrees in Virginia."



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## Examining the Hysteria Over School Test Scores

DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Recently the National Center for Education Statistics released the National Assessment for Education Progress (NAEP) scores for fourth and eighth graders' math and reading skills. This "nation's report card" compared scores on tests given in 2019 to those given in 2022. There should have been little surprise that the scores went down, but instead there were cries of great despair from the standing critics of public schools. In a press release, Governor Glenn Youngkin termed the results "catastrophic"—his Secretary of Education called them "heart wrenching."

Between the administration of the two tests there was a pandemic where schools were closed for health reasons based on the best medical recommendations. I understand that the closing of schools was a controversial decision to some, but the weighing of human life of children and school staff

from a deadly pandemic vs. points on standardized tests was one that was made in favor of human health and life. A virtual system of educating children at home was hastily assembled, and I believe had amazing results. Over time parents seemed united in their desire to get their children out of the house from too much togetherness because the parents found themselves at home and businesses closed just as the schools had because of the risks to human life brought on by the pandemic.

Second guessing is always easy because you can suggest the outcome you would like to believe would have happened. Suppose the schools had not closed or masks had not been required as some wanted. The outcome could have been catastrophic in the loss of life to children and school staff as we gave priority to health over some points on a less-than-perfect



Plum

testing system. Suppose we would acknowledge just how valuable our teachers and the work they do are; a year away from direct contact with teachers and students suddenly at home with their parents using digital learning devices was bound to result in lower test scores.

The winners in this scenario are the teachers and school personnel who have been doing an amazing job of educating children even with low pay and lack of resources. Reduce their role and you get lower scores on the nation's report card.

Too many politicians like those in leadership in Virginia look for scapegoats: "my predecessors," "lowered expectations," "keeping children out of school for extended and unnecessary periods." Their seven-point plan to respond to the dip in test scores calls for no specific investment in the schools other than asking districts to spend

the federal dollars that have been made available by the federal government.

What happens when those federal dollars that were appropriated to respond to results of the pandemic on the schools dry up? Will the administration propose state dollars to fill in behind the federal dollars? How does their proposed action 6 to "provide parents, students, and teachers with actionable information" do anything to help children learn?

I fully admit my bias in favor of the schools and the amazing job they do in educating all the children in our diverse communities. For another look at this subject, I suggest you read on the education blog of the Atlanta Journal Constitution a guest column by Ted Dinter-Smith, "Misplaced Focus on NAEP scores cause test score hysteria," <https://www.ajc.com/education/get-schooled-blog/education-innovator-misplaced-focus-on-naep-fuels-test-score-hysteria/TL6FA32WLFDDNMD36RX5Z-KNDQ/>.

## All Sides and Academic Attorney Weigh In

FROM PAGE 3

Ballot to early voters coming to the Herndon Fortnightly Library during the first days of early voting. Voters accepted their sheets of paper and carried them into the polling location.

Asked to explain the "sample ballot," del Aguila said, "So, there's a ruckus going around about the Herndon Democrats? It's a Political Action Committee, and it did an evaluation and endorsement of the candidates. They've endorsed Gerry Connolly and candidates that align with Herndon Democrats." According to del Aguila, there are about 24 members in the PAC.

After hearing about Connolly's tweet, del Aguila said, "We do not need his permission. That would be a violation of federal campaign laws. We would not put him in that jeopardy. We would not expose him to that."

According to del Aguila, changes and decisions by Herndon Democrats are theirs to make, and they do not need permission. Herndon Democrats intend "to participate in statewide, General Assembly, and Fairfax County local elections," according to its registration.

Asked if all the candidates named in the sample ballots were Democrats, del Aguila said, "No. And that's OK. It's about being open-minded. It's about being a



Cesar del Aguila, a candidate for Member of Council in the Town of Herndon, asks a Town of Herndon voter if he wants a Herndon Democratic Sample Ballot.

strategic visionary. It's about accepting change (and)... contrarian views," he said.

In the Herndon District in Fairfax County, the Virginia Department of Elections qualified three candidates to run for Mayor and nine candidates to run for Member of Council. Herndon Democrats listed on its sample ballot federal candidate, "Member U.S. House of

Representatives, Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly; Mayor, Town of Herndon, Sean Regan; and five for Council, Town of Herndon, Cesar del Aguila, Vice Mayor; Naila Alam Councilmember; Pradip Dhakal, Councilmember; Clark A. Hedrick; and Donielle Scherff.

Asked if they knew their names were on the sample ballot, Hedrick said he was unaware until he went



From left, Officers for Fairfax County Elections, Linda Kimmel of Reston and Isabel Vicinanza of Herndon, monitor the Drop-off Box for Absentee Ballots during early voting Friday evening, Oct. 27, at the Herndon Fortnightly Library in the Town of Herndon.

to the polls on Thursday morning, the first day of voting. "I did not consent to have my name on the (sample) ballot. ... I actually have an agreement with my employer that I will not accept or seek any party or de facto partisan endorsement." Del Aguila confirmed Sunday evening that Hedrick's name was slashed out with a black

SEE ALL SIDES, PAGE 9



# NEWS

## VOTE, it's Election Day Tuesday/Nov. 8

**P**olls open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you will be able to vote.

Note that Fairfax County voters in the towns of Herndon, Clifton, and Vienna may have recently received a notice from the Virginia Department of Elections in Richmond with the wrong location and address for their polling place. Please disregard that notice. Find your correct voting location and other correct information with your voter registration record on the Department of Elections Citizen Portal: [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov) Call 703-222-0776 TTY 711 with questions.

Sample ballots and more at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/home-page>

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

**WEGMANS ANNOUNCES RESTON OPENING DATE, NOVEMBER HIRING EVENTS**  
With construction of the new Reston location well underway, Wegmans Food Markets announced the store's opening date on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 9 a.m. The Reston team is ramping up hiring and training for nearly 200 open positions with an in-person hiring event on Tuesday, November 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The hiring event will take place at The Edmund apartments, located above the site of the future Reston store, at 2025 Fulton Place. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply online before the event, or call 703-421-2466 for more information. Visit [https://wegmans.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Wegmans/job/Reston/Hiring-Event\\_R0146616](https://wegmans.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Wegmans/job/Reston/Hiring-Event_R0146616)

**SUNDAY/NOV. 6**  
"The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back." 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Via Zoom. The Generations After, an organization primarily comprised of children of Holocaust survivors, as well as survivors, and grandchildren of survivors, will present a program on antisemitism. "The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back" will feature guest speakers Mark Weitzman and Jonah Cohen. Mark Weitzman is Chief Operation Officer of the World Jewish Restitution Organization. He previously served as Director of Government Affairs for the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Weitzman spearheaded the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) 2016 adoption of the Working Definition of Antisemitism. Cohen is the director of communications for the Committee

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# Sugarland Run South Stream Restoration Starting

## Disruption trade-off for natural habitat?

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**N**atural wildlife leaving the Sugarland Run area of the Town of Herndon for a better life may return soon. Long-eared bats and wood turtles are among them. The Town of Herndon is about to start the Sugarland Run South Stream Restoration project with a 240-day timeline. Its goal is to restore the stream and wetlands to their natural state. The project will improve water quality by promoting “a resurgence of hundreds of species back into the steam,” according to Richard Smith, a senior civil engineer at the Town of Herndon.

According to Scott Robinson, the worst-degraded section of the stream, approximately 1,200 linear feet on town property behind the Herndon Police Station at 397 Herndon Pkwy., will be restored beginning in November. Robinson said, and as depicted on the Concept Plan for the Sugarland Run (South) Stream Restoration Project, it is part of a more significant effort. One component is restoring the degraded stream’s environmental integrity due to severe erosion.

“We have studies on a couple of endangered species, the long-eared bat and the wood turtle. One of the goals of this project is to create a habitat that is encouraging to those species,” Robinson said. Another effort is being made to improve water quality through natural channel design techniques.

Sugarland Run is affected from the WO&D trail crossing downstream to the pedestrian bridge crossing. This section of the stream parallels the Herndon Parkway, Lawrence Latour, PE, water resource engineer for the Town of Herndon, says. The paved trail that runs along the west side of the stream, closest to and parallel to the police station, will be closed as it is being replaced. The Sugarland Gravel Trail will continue to operate.

Smith warned of “heavy disruption at first.”

“But we will replenish and recreate a healthy natural habitat that promotes a resurgence of hundreds of species back into the stream to make it healthier.” Because of the eroded stream conditions that were cutting down into the channel bed, the project was identified for stream restoration.

Smith said the project is funded by a stormwater tax assessment collected by Fairfax County. A portion is returned for stormwater system maintenance. “We request funding on a per-project basis, and this is funded through that,” he said. Furthermore, the town was awarded a grant from the state of up to \$830,000 to offset Fairfax County’s input.

**Project impact area with trails and stream shown**



Richard Smith, a senior civil engineer; Lawrence Latour, PE, water resource engineer; and Scott Robinson, director of public works; all with the Town of Herndon, look at the Sugarland Run’s bed and bank erosion.



Richard Smith, a senior civil engineer; Lawrence Latour, PE, water resource engineer; and Scott Robinson, director of public works; all with the Town of Herndon, look at the Sugarland Run’s bed and bank erosion.



Piney Branch Stream example, restoration project after.



Piney Stream Branch example, restoration project before.



On Sept. 27, 2022, the Town Council awarded KBS Earthworks, Inc., Contract # B-22-11, for \$964,209.68. The Capital Projects Account contains funds to support the contract. Staff recommended, and the council approved a \$193,000 contingency or 20 percent of the bid

With the project’s primary goal to return the stream to its natural state, it includes new native aquatic riparian plantings to help with stream restoration, according to Smith. These will prevent future erosion and help to stabilize the stream. In addition, over 3,000 live-stake trees will be planted along the banks. “On top of that, we’ll have over 1000 native shrubs and plants,” Smith said. “Every one of our species is native to this area.” Before any construction can begin, permits must be obtained from the Town of Herndon.

For Town of Herndon residents concerned about the annual fishing derby, Latour said the town is looking into relocating it further north, possibly to Runnymede Park. “It would be wonderful, and we’re excited once the plants have established in our stream restoration area to have the public back there, but it’s really important to have plants fully established,” Latour said.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION



# All Sides and Academic Attorney Weigh In

FROM PAGE 6

marker on the sample ballot. In addition, the header that said “Herndon Democrats Democratic Sample Ballot” was cut off the top. The ballots would be distributed like that, del Aguila said.

“I was not aware of it. I was not asked,” said Alam. “But I support it.”

Scherff said, “I don’t have to consent to be on a sample ballot.”

Dhakal said, “Although I did not seek this endorsement, nor was I asked for permission, I am OK with the endorsement.”

Sean Regan said, “I did not ask for the endorsement but knew my name would be on their sample ballot before early voting started at the library. Regan added he wants it to remain there; del Aguila knew about the sample ballot.

## BYOB: Make Your Own Sample Ballot?

According to Graham of FCDC, the intentional Party misrepresentation by Herndon Democrats “subverts the decision of the actual Democratic Committee not to endorse in this year’s Town elections.”

Kelsey projected that the “intra-party squabble” within FCDC regarding whether or not to endorse Town of Herndon candidates this spring could have led to a group of people “who wanted FCDC to do one thing and they wouldn’t do it, to basically use the political process to try to do what hadn’t been done.” Using sample ballots, especially Democratic, is a very powerful tool in Virginia,” Kelsey said.

According to the Virginia Department of Elections, “Any person, association, organization, or group of individuals that anticipates receiving contributions and/or spending funds in excess of \$200 in order to influence the outcome of any non-federal election in Virginia must register as a political committee with the Virginia Department of Elections.”

On each side of the header for the Herndon Democrats Democratic Sample Ballot stood a star-bannered Democrat donkey and a third similar donkey at the bottom. Candidates for the 11th Congressional District, Mayor, Town of Herndon, and Council, Town of Herndon, were clearly marked on the sample ballot.

The power of a sample ballot can unwittingly sway ill-prepared voters who have not done their due diligence in learning about the issues and candidate positions. According to Kelsey, the hallmark of U.S. elections is misleading advertising. “There’s no form of tomfoolery that I have not yet encountered... Here’s where you see it in a different fashion.”

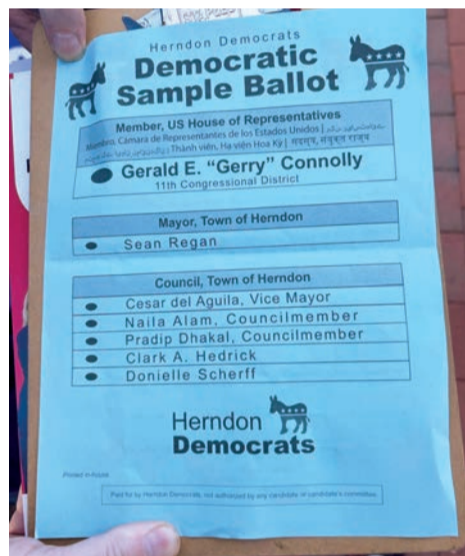
Kelsey contends, “A subcommittee or a subgroup of individuals wants a very strong block of voters, in this case, Democrats, to believe that this slate has the official Democratic stamp of approval. So, what they do is they make a ballot that certainly looks like, smells like, feels like, tastes like, and it’s got the imprimatur of the Fairfax Democratic Party on it saying, ‘Here’s our slate.’”

Sample ballots are not illegal, and they

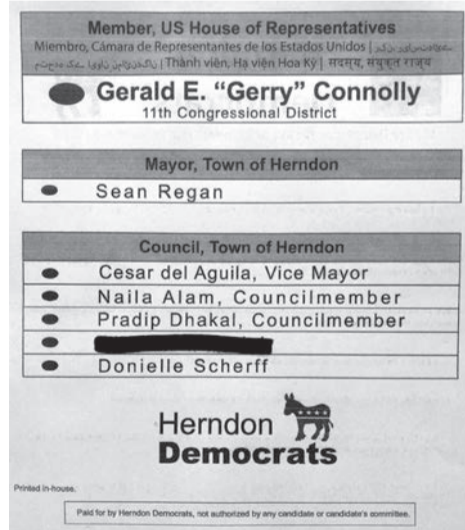


PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The early voting location at Herndon Fortnightly Library opened on Oct. 27 and runs through Nov. 5.



Version #1 of the Herndon Democrats Democratic Sample Ballot.



Version #2 of the Herndon Democrats Democratic Sample Ballot was revised late Sunday.

can be powerful. Voters will sometimes vote with a sample ballot next to their voting sheet and mark it the way it looks on the sample ballot. There is nothing out there, according to Kelsey, that says it cannot be done. The law does not address the issue.

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**CALENDAR**

**2022 MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND FRUIT SALE**  
Help support the McLean High School Band programs by purchasing fresh fruit from Florida. For over 40 years, the MHS Band Fruit Sale has offered high quality citrus from the Florida groves. This year you can purchase Navel Oranges, Mandarin Oranges, Grapefruit or a Fruit Sampler. Place your order online through November 9th at <http://www.floridafruitstore.com/McLeanHSBand>. Fruit is for pick-up only on Saturday, December 10th at McLean HS, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. E-mail [fruitsale@mcleanband.org](mailto:fruitsale@mcleanband.org)

**OCT. 21 - NOV. 13**  
"Frankenstein." At NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Dr., Herndon. By Nick Dear, adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley. Celebrate Halloween season with this thrilling stage adaptation of Mary Shelley's science fiction masterpiece. Enter the dark world of Victor Frankenstein, as he attempts to decipher the secret of life by creating a childlike, but grotesque shadow of a human. Recommended for mature audiences. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org)

**OCT. 21-NOV. 5**  
"Doubt: A Parable." 8 p.m. on Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29; Nov 4, 5; and 2 p.m.: Sundays: Oct 30, Nov 6. At Vienna Community Center: 120 Cherry S. SE, Vienna. "Doubt: A Parable," a play by John Patrick Shanley, analyzes an instance of doubt and suspicion in a Catholic school in the Bronx in the 1960s. The play tells the story of principal Sister Aloysius's suspicions about an inappropriate relationship between a priest and a young male student. Visit the website: [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org)

**SATURDAY/NOV. 5**  
Reston Homes Tour. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tickets are now on sale for the 20th Reston Home Tour of various homes in Reston. Ticket-holders can visit up to eight homes throughout Reston. Self-guided tour stops: Hook Road, Triple Crown Road, Dorrance Court, Auburn Grove Lane, Lake Anne House, Beacon Place, and an EYA model home. Proceeds benefit the Reston Museum. A detailed map with addresses will be emailed closer to the event date. Visit <https://www.restonmuseum.org/hometour>.

**SATURDAY/NOV. 5**  
Appraisal Roadshow. 10:45 a.m. - Noon at Reston Association Headquarters, Reston. The Appraisal Roadshow delivers a treasure hunt experience in a fun, educational and rewarding forum. Bring an item such as jewelry, coins, a timepiece, porcelain, artwork or other heirlooms, and the appraisal experts will educate you and the other participants with interesting facts and information on what it is, what it's worth and what you can do with your treasure. Questions? Contact [Ashleigh@reston.org](mailto:Ashleigh@reston.org) or 703-435-6577.

**SUNDAY/NOV. 6**  
Six Pack Rodeo. 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. These McLean locals will rock you with

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

their special brand of “country with a kick”— original music, classic rock and even country favorites.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 6

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Pub in Great Falls. Featuring Robin Bullock, the foremost Celtic bouzouki/guitar and mandolin exponent in the nation! This award-winning Celtic/American string wizard is a prolific composer and multi-instrumentalist, whose virtuosity on guitar, cittern and mandolin blends the ancient melodies of the Celtic lands and their vigorous Appalachian descendants into one powerful musical vision. Visit [robinbullock.com](http://robinbullock.com)

## TUESDAY/NOV. 8

**VOTE, it's ELECTION DAY.** Polls open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you will be able to vote. Note that Fairfax County voters in the towns of Herndon, Clifton, and Vienna may have recently received a notice from the Virginia Department of Elections in Richmond with the wrong location and address for their polling place. Please disregard that notice. Find your correct voting location and other correct information with your voter registration record on the Department of Elections Citizen Portal: [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov) Call 703-222-0776 TTY 711 with questions. Sample ballots and more at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/home-page>

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 9

Talk on Lyme and Vector Borne Illnesses. 5:30 p.m. At Greenfare Restaurant, 408 Elden Street, Herndon. What is the incidence and prevalence in our area? How do you prevent bites? How do you remove a tick? What are the signs and symptoms of Lyme? Is labwork accurate? What is the status of a vaccine? Come hear answers to these questions and more from a Lyme survivor, advocate, and health coach. RSVP: [mveiga@mylymeguide.com](mailto:mveiga@mylymeguide.com) Link to event: <https://greenfare.com/event/the-latest-on-lyme-disease/>

## NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: [www.restonartgallery.com](http://www.restonartgallery.com)

## SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA). His articles on Jews, Israel, and human rights have appeared in numerous publications. Following the program, The Generations after will hold their annual meeting and elections, at approximately 12:15 PM. To register for the program and/or the annual meeting, copy this link: The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back, Nov 6, 11 AM ET + Annual Meeting/Elections, 12:15 PM | Cognito Forms

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The McLean Antiques Show and Sale will take place Nov. 12-13 at the McLean Community Center.

## McLean Antiques Show and Sale.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Antiques Show and Sale will feature an exciting selection of designer vintage clothing and American Folk Art as well as well-known traditional show offerings. The show brings together a fine selection of antiques dealers from eight states from New England to North Carolina. Admission is \$10 per person for both days of the show. Children and teens under age 18 will be admitted free of charge. For a list of dealers, visit [www.dfshows.com](http://www.dfshows.com).

Lake Anne Village in Reston from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

## MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on May 6th, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through Nov. 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats: herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. For more information, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

## GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GrandInvolve Seeks Volunteers. Would you like a unique and interesting volunteer experience to make a difference in a school, classroom, or in one child's life? GrandInvolve.org facilitates rewarding, flexible adult volunteer opportunities at Fairfax County Title I elementary schools, providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks. Visit [www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us](http://www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us) for details and to complete an interest form. Or email [info@grandinvolve.org](mailto:info@grandinvolve.org).

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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

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## A Distinction Without a Difference



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I've had health insurance with the same provider for 20+ years. For the past seven years I had been accepted into a special, more fortunate subgroup. Initial qualifications were simple: Serious illness (like my cancer) qualified. The application was a two-page pamphlet asking half-a-dozen, token-type questions. Nothing beyond name, rank, and serial number – and disease, of course. Naturally, I was accepted. The plan paid all co-pays for office visits, scans and such, and every dollar of any prescription medication I was prescribed. It was a freebee, so to speak; and to invoke Dennis Eckersley, formerly of the NESN/Boston Red Sox television broadcasting crew (while describing a particularly fortuitous event on the field): "It was a beautiful thing." And when you consider the cost of cancer drugs, receiving a pass such as this, was instrumental in my survival – financially (you'll learn why: keep reading). Not incurring these costs has been a Godsend for my family.

A year or so ago however, my provider changed the rules. No more would seriousness of disease be the trigger. It would now be means-tested requirement where you had to make less than minimum wage, if you know what I mean? But the application was still modest in its initial approach. I answered a few questions and amazingly made the cut somehow and the benefits were renewed for another year, until Oct. 4th of this year. Apparently, the provider felt the pinch of its generosity. In response to my renewal application submitted 30 days before this year's expiration, the provider responded by mail a few days before my coverage was scheduled to terminate; that they needed additional financial documentation: tax returns, (all schedules), W-2s, 1099s, et cetera. They further advised that I could expect a response 45 days after receipt. This meant that I would be out of time/coverage when my cancer medication was due to be refilled. The timing could not have been worse.

I tried to reorder the medication as near as possible to the end of my current coverage so it would last through the 45 days until I was possibly renewed (hardly guaranteed), but I was advised by the pharmacy that the order was placed too soon, and I'd have to wait until, you guessed it, as it happened, after this special coverage had ended. Frantic, I called the provider's home office, spoke with a pharmacy coverage specialist, and explained my dilemma. She was understanding and said the provider offered a once-per lifetime accommodation for these exact transitional-type circumstances (when the patient now has to pay), to pay for the medication as they previously had: zero dollars. I was ecstatic. I thanked her profusely and hung up. When it was timely to reorder, I called the pharmacy and submitted the order. A day or so later, I received a text advising me that my medication was ready, and the co-pay would be \$985 – for one month. Disappointed (to say the least, panicked to say the most), I called the local pharmacy which was processing the order and asked if they were familiar with this special one-time dispensation. They said they were. Then I said, "What was this order was about. I was then put on hold as the pharmacy tech. went "to get the pharmacy manager," she said. (I feared this day of reckoning would occur one day. Not to be a fatalist, more so a realist, but I figured this amazing benefit had to end at some point. I couldn't be this lucky forever. Now however, I might say the eagle has landed. Moreover, given the co-pay I received today, let me amend that statement to say the eagle has crashed and burned.)

Within 30 seconds or so the pharmacy manager comes on the line and asks if she can help. I briefly review with her the basic components of my expectation and ask why the co-pay is \$985 (I'm rounding up, to be fair). She says: "You are covered." "This is not the price that the home office told me I would be paying. It sure doesn't sound like I'm covered." I pleaded, calm. Then she said those words that led to this column: "I'm afraid that one-time offer doesn't apply for this medication." I snickered. You can probably imagine what I said to myself. Then I said: "I don't consider \$985 'coverage.'" Again, she assured me: "You are covered." I snicker, louder and more aggressively this time. You call \$985 for one month, "covered?" She responds that my regular policy still covers medication, just not like the special coverage I had previously did: free; and this \$985 is my current co-pay due. Otherwise, the medication would cost upwards of \$20,000." I hem and haw and eventually hang up the phone after asking how long the prescription will remain available for pick up. I still have a few weeks before I have to decide to pay the piper or not take my cancer medication. Either way, I'm worse off than I am now. Hardly a prescription for future good health.

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



# HALLOWEEN

## Halloween Costumes, Decorations and Candy Galore



From left are Juvenile Court's Megan Wright and Paula King.



Fair Oaks District Station Cmdr. Camille Stewart and Asst. Cmdr. Patrick O'Hara.



From left, police 2nd Lt. Matt Kourt, CAC Chair Kim Barber and PFC Steve Monahan.

Fairfax County police & friends' Trunk-Or-Treat was Oct. 19 outside the Fairfax County Government Center.



FCPD Chaplain Michael Shochet and wife Denise.



Virginia State Police Trooper Alex Pak.



Representing Fairfax County Victim Services are (from left) Brooke Friedman and Kristen Sanders.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



Bumblebee Amelia R., 2.



Brothers (from left) Benjamin, Isaac and James Seibert with lots of candy.



Sully Police 2nd Lt. Deanna Weand and her decorated cruiser.



Grandma Linda Crocker with Dylan, 3-1/2, and mom Logan Nolan holding Jackson, 9 months.



Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and staffer Dan Dolan.



Excavator Liam Molina, 3, with Fair Oaks police Capt. Camille Stewart.



Most Creative winner: Fairfax County Animal Protection police, (from left) 2nd Lt. D. Pitts and administrative assistant Dana Grimm.