

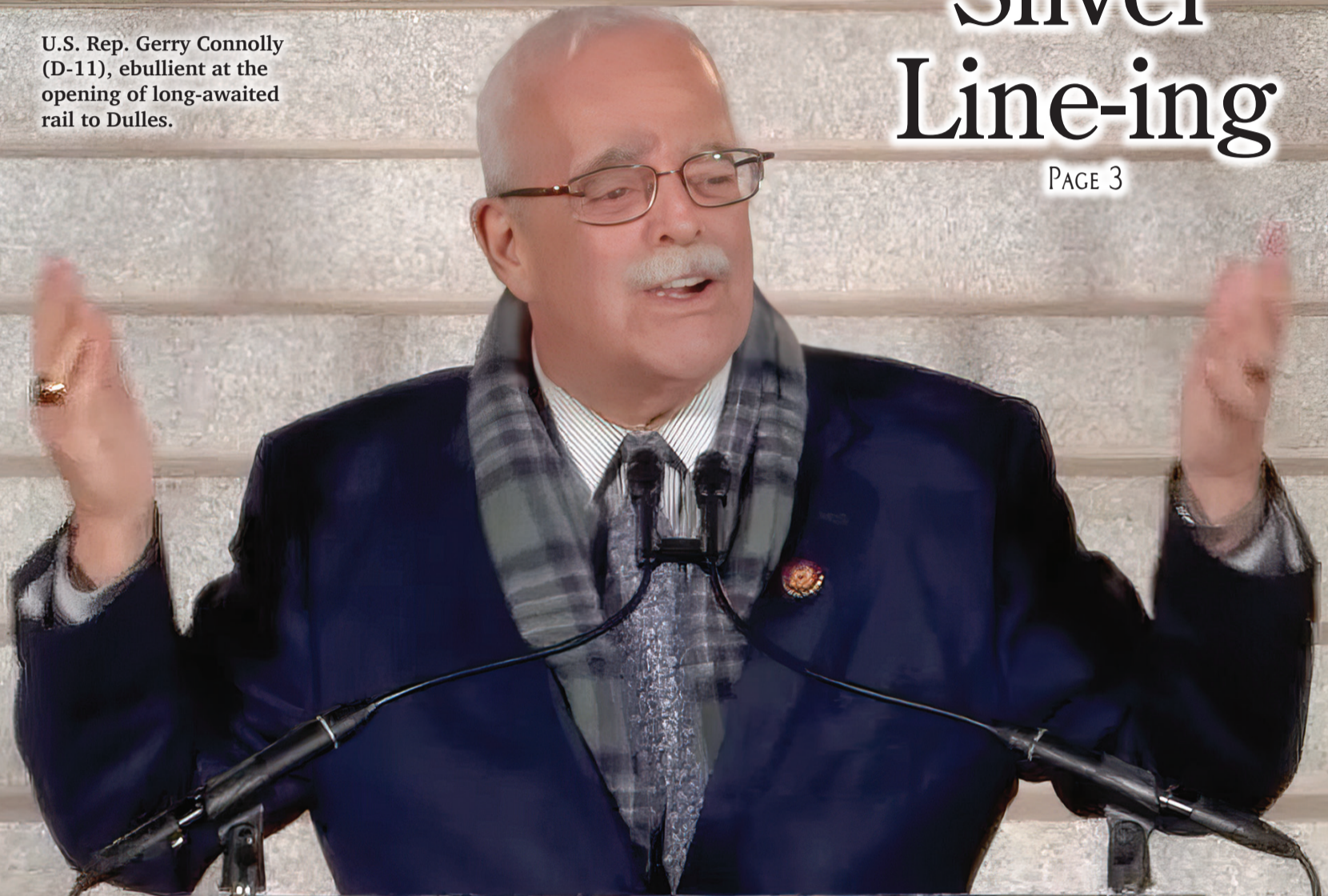
# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

## Silver Line-ing

PAGE 3

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), ebullient at the opening of long-awaited rail to Dulles.



Welcome to the

Korean Presbyterian Church Growth Ok'd

PAGE 4

Silver Line EXTENSION

Voters Re-elect Herndon Mayor, Shake Up Council

PAGE 6

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METRO VIDEO

NOVEMBER 16-22, 2022

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## NEWS

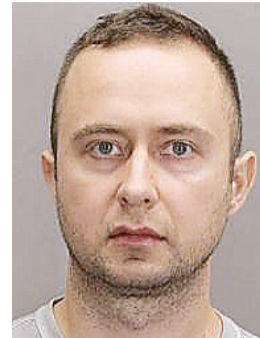
# Local Man Charged with Killing Neighbor's Dog

Fairfax County police have charged a Centreville man with two felonies in connection with the fatal shooting of a neighbor's dog. Arrested was Roman Vyacheslavov Gorelov, 33.

Sully District police responded last Friday, Nov. 11, at 9:47 a.m., to the 5100 block of Brittney Elyse Circle, Centreville, for the reported shooting. Officers found the dog's owner outside, next to his 2-year-old yellow Labrador and Beagle mix that had been shot.

"Officers learned Roman Gorelov [allegedly] shot the dog and then returned to his nearby apartment," say police, "[They] contacted Gorelov by phone, and he surrendered to police." The dog was taken to a nearby veterinarian hospital and pronounced dead.

Detectives from the police department's Major Crimes Bureau preliminarily determined that "Gorelov exchanged words



Gorelov

with the dog's owner in the breezeway of the apartments. Gorelov then displayed a firearm and shot the dog." Police say the owner picked up his wounded animal and ran away from the breezeway, but Gorelov followed the man and then reportedly "shot the dog several more times."

Police charged him with animal cruelty and reckless discharge of a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school. He was held without bond at the Adult Detention Center. Detectives executed a search warrant at the home and recovered the gun believed to have been used in the shooting.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call detectives at 703-814-7000. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

— BONNIE HOBBS



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# NEWS

## Silver Line-ing on Cold, Wet Day

Whirlwind of celebrations for long-awaited opening of rail to Dulles and beyond.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

“We are here at last,” said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). “Keeping it alive took everything we had ... . The return on this investment will be, I believe, incalculable.”

U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-10) said it had been a long journey. Still, the region needs to rely on transit and transportation to support families, small businesses and continued economic successes. “That’s exactly what the Silver Line is going to do ... Enjoy the ride,” Wexton said.

Jeff McKay (D) said that he always talks to people about Metro not being an expense but an investment. “You will see enormous economic development ... people living a different life because of Metro.”

“Our community deserves these kinds of investments. We’re catching up in a very bold way here with so many other places,” said McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Loudoun Board Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D) said that the “macro” reason they were all at the airport was to cut the station ribbon. But there were micro reasons as well. “This Metro will allow a father who’s working two jobs to get home in time to see his kids. This Metro will allow the grandma to get to her grandson’s play to watch him be the best potted plant she’s ever seen. ... We’re here for one reason. We’re here to make a better quality of life for the people that we serve.”

At 1:54 p.m., the first Metro customers settled in on a passenger train to depart from the Ashburn Station in Loudoun County. The 7000 series train headed on its inaugural trip to the other five Phase 2 stations, Loudoun Gateway, Washington Dulles International Airport, Innovation Center, Herndon, and Reston. The train continued to the Wiehle-Reston Station, the former terminus of the Silver Line, and beyond to Downtown Largo. A trip to/from Dulles Airport-Wiehle-Reston East on the Metro reportedly takes 12 minutes.

The event marked the culmination of Metrorail’s largest expansion since the system’s inception and WMATA’s “generational” infrastructure investment. Construction of Phase 2 began in 2014. The \$6.8 billion Silver Line is Metro’s largest expansion by route mileage since its inception in 1976.

### Innovation Station in Herndon

Fairfax County leaders, business leaders, [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)



METRO VIDEO

Ribbon cutting opens Metro’s Dulles International Airport Station



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

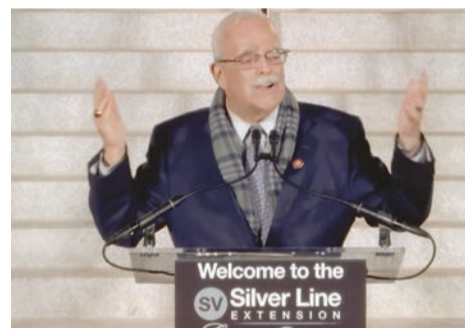
Ribbon cutting at Innovation Center Station



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Innovation Center Station on opening day

and community partners celebrated the Innovation Center Metrorail Station opening at 13747-A Sunrise Valley Drive in Herndon. The temperature was 39 degrees with cold rain, but that did not stop the celebration.



METRO VIDEO

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)



METRO VIDEO

U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-10)



METRO VIDEO

Fairfax Board Chairman Jeff McKay



METRO VIDEO

Loudoun Board Chair Phyllis J. Randall

“The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority invested \$69 million in regional revenues on the Innovation Center Metrorail Station,” said Monica Backmon, CEO of the NVT, which invested \$188 million in Silver Line Phase II projects, including improvements for drivers, transit riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The transportation authority invests in multimodal transportation projects to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles on the region’s crowded roads by giving people more ways to get around, Backmon said.

The Metrorail Innovation Center Silver Line project improves connectivity. It accommodates a variety of modes of transportation, including rail, bus, bicycle, and air travel. Over 170 bike racks, ten bike lockers, a secure bike storage room, pedestrian bridges, station entrances from both sides of the Dulles Access Road, and a new parking

garage with 2,100 spaces on the south side are available at the station.

Others provided information on expanded Connector bus service, local transportation services such as shuttles, pedestrian walkways, and bike services, as well as the economic impact of extending the Silver Line to the edge of Fairfax County and beyond.

The recently finished Innovation Arrowbrook Trail connects the Innovation station, the Town of Herndon, and the community around it. It is a 10-foot-wide, lane-marked, paved path with dual bike and pedestrian use, according to Jeffrey Fairfield, executive director of The Ruth and Hal Launders Charitable Trust.

“We were responsible for the Innovation Trail, which runs from the south side of the toll road overpass on Centreville Road

SEE RAIL TO DULLES, PAGE 8



# KCPC: 'Important Part of Our Community'

Supervisors OK church's request for athletic field, more parking.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

With the blessing of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Korean Central Presbyterian Church (KCPC) will be able to add more uses to its property in Centreville. The church building itself will not be changed; but the grounds will gain places for recreation and socializing.

Along Route 29 in Centreville, the church site contains some 84 acres; however, KCPC now owns 5.73 more acres than it did originally. So it asked the Supervisors to approve a special-exception application so it could incorporate the additional land into its property. But that's not all.

"The applicant proposes to add outdoor recreation on [this] parcel, which would include a multi-purpose athletic field, basketball court, playground and pavilion areas," said Sharon Williams of the county's Department of Planning and Development. She was

addressing Board members during their Nov. 1 public hearing on this matter.

Explaining the proposal's details, she said KCPC also plans to replace its existing, gravel parking lot with one having an asphalt surface. It would be south of the new athletic field and would provide the church with an extra 526 parking spaces.

"In addition, the applicant proposes to allow the existing, private school to expand the age range of the children [attending it] from the current operation of kindergarten through second grade to kindergarten through sixth grade," said Williams. She noted that no change in the number of students is anticipated.

She said the church also potentially plans to someday construct a new, 20,000-square-foot administrative building on the western side of the parking lot. It further proposes renovating and expanding the existing 810-square-foot single-family, detached home on the added property. When com-

pleted, it would be 1,200 square feet and would function as the church rectory.

No changes are planned for the rest of the site, said Williams. "The southern half of the property is proposed to remain undisturbed," she said. "It would continue to contain a sanctuary and a chapel, a private school and a child-care center."

The site will also maintain 55-percent, undisturbed open space. The additions will be the 81,000-square-foot multiuse, natural-grass athletic field, as well as a 6,572-square-foot basketball court and a 3,465-square-foot tot lot. "The field would not be lit," said Williams. "And the proposed facilities would be private – for use by the church congregation, with limited use by the general public

SEE KCPC, PAGE 5

Diagram showing the location of the planned athletic field on the church property and its proximity to Route 29.



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# KCPC: 'Important Part Of Our Community'

FROM PAGE 4

in the neighboring community, and by appointment only.”

No recreational league play would be allowed on these facilities. And the two pavilion areas, plus a small bathroom, will be built south of the field and used by KCPC for outdoor events and fellowship.

Also speaking to the Supervisors was attorney David Houston, representing the church. He said adding both the active and passive recreation uses on the property, plus the extra parking, will provide the members with more opportunities for “fellowship and engagement.”

On Sundays, about 5,000 people attend KCPC’s five different services, but the current grass overflow-parking field to the right of the sanctuary can’t be used in bad weather, so the new, permanent parking spaces will be especially beneficial. And some impervious surface, plus permeable pavers, will be added to that grass lot.

That way, church members will be able to park on it, instead of having to take a shuttle to park at nearby Bull Run Elementary. Furthermore, these additional spaces, plus the pavilions, will enable the congregation members to stay

longer and mingle with each other after their particular service is over – instead of having to quickly drive away so people arriving to attend the following service would have places to park.

Houston also said some storm-water-management upgrades would be done to the site as part of the work. And he stressed that KCPC’s proposal had received favorable recommendations from the Sully District Council and county staff, as well as the unanimous approval of the county Planning Commission.

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) then made a motion that the Supervisors approve the church’s special-exception amendment and thanked KCPC for all its work with the staff. “It was really important that we preserve the open space,” she said. “Anybody that’s been to that site knows that we need more parking [there]. So I’m happy that was able to be worked out with the permeable pavers; and the recreational facilities will be good.”

Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay also thanked the church for “being such an important part of our community.” The Supervisors then voted and approved the plan unanimously.

## 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.

### FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATING IN TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will be participating in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments’ 2022 TOYS FOR TOTS Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to “bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children.” Stations will accept donations now through Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Collection boxes will be placed outside the front door of each fire and rescue station every morning. Residents will be able to drop off toys until 8 p.m., each evening.

Please help us to help those less fortunate this holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, FCFRD was able to provide the Marines with approximately 25,000 toys last year!

Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new,

unwrapped toys. Toys used as weapons or considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to TOYS FOR TOTS.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Sunday, December 11, 2022. Toys will not be accepted after this date.

### NEW LAKE ANNE HOUSE OPENS

Fairfax County leaders joined with state and federal officials, Enterprise Community Development, and Fellowship Square to celebrate the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Lake Anne House. The community features 240 modern apartment homes for low-income seniors in Reston. The in-person event marked the end of a multi-year effort to redevelop the 1970s-era housing community and preserve affordable housing for older adults in Fairfax County. The new Lake Anne House includes 56 studios, 178

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6




**CALENDAR**

1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
LEE	10829	624	RTE 624	CREEK	10/29/2022
GILES	8450	653	EATON CHAPEL RD/RTE 653	LITTLE SUGAR RUN	10/28/2022
ALBEMARLE	800	712	PLANK ROAD	HARDWARE RIVER	10/27/2022
BOTETOURT	3536	1001	UPDIKE LANE/RTE1001	BRANCH OF TINKER CREEK	10/27/2022
FLOYD	7501	221	FLOYD HWY S/RTE 221	BR OF DOBBINS CREEK	10/27/2022
GILES	8478	700	MT LAKE RD/RTE 700	SINKING CREEK	10/27/2022
MONTGOMERY	12312	705	COAL HOLLOW RD/RTE 705	SLATE BRANCH	10/27/2022
MONTGOMERY	12294	669	UNION VALLEY R/RTE 669	ELLIOTT CREEK	10/27/2022
ROANOKE	14980	609	E. RURITAN RD/RTE 609	BR GLADE CREEK	10/27/2022
ROANOKE	15095	737	GLADDEN RD/RTE 737	BRANCH RNKE RIVER	10/27/2022
MONTGOMERY	12235	629	BRADSHAW RD/RTE 629	BRADSHAW CREEK	10/26/2022
MONTGOMERY	12285	657	MERRIMAC RD/RTE 657	SLATE CREEK	10/26/2022
MONTGOMERY	12279	654	BROOKSFIELD RD/RTE 654	TOMS CREEK	10/25/2022
MONTGOMERY	12264	641	WAYSIDE DRIVE/RTE 641	SPRING BRANCH	10/25/2022
MONTGOMERY	12265	641	WAYSIDE DRIVE/RTE 641	SPRING BRANCH	10/25/2022
MONTGOMERY	12271	643	YELL SULPH RD/RTE 643	MILL BRANCH	10/25/2022
FAUQUIER	7276	610	MIDLAND ROAD	ELK RUN	10/24/2022
PULASKI	14549	613	CHERRYBRANCHRD/RTE 613	BURKS RUN	10/24/2022
FLOYD	7487	221	FLOYD HWY. S/RTE 221	GREASY CREEK	10/22/2022
BOTETOURT	3534	817	OLD RAIL ROAD/RTE 817	CRAIG CREEK	10/21/2022
ROANOKE	15070	677	WILLOW BR RD/RTE 677	BR BACK CREEK	10/21/2022
TAZEWELL	18486	91	RTE 91	LITTLE RIVER	10/20/2022
FLOYD	7477	8	PARKWAY LANE/RTE 8	W FORK DODD CREEK	10/19/2022
PATRICK	13246	103	DRY POND RD/RTE 103	BACK CREEK	10/19/2022
PATRICK	13229	58	JEB STUART HWY/RTE 58	LITTLE IVY CREEK	10/19/2022
PATRICK	13206	8	PATRICK AVENUE/RTE 8	BR. SOUTH MAYO RIVER	10/19/2022
GRAYSON	8900	711	BATTLEFIELD DRIVE	SADDLE CREEK	10/18/2022
HENRY	10022	57	APPALACHIN DR/RTE 57	DANIELS CREEK	10/18/2022
HENRY	10021	57	FAIRYST. PK HW/RTE 57	SMITH RIVER	10/18/2022
HENRY	10057	220	RTE 220	NS RAILWAY	10/18/2022
MONTGOMERY	12113	11	RKE RD/460WBL11SBL	BR SOUTHFORKROANOKERIVER	10/18/2022
MONTGOMERY	12137	11	ROANOKE ROAD/RTE 11	WHITEHOUSE BRANCH	10/18/2022
PATRICK	13293	635	GOBLINTOWN CR/RTE 635	GOBLINTOWN CREEK	10/18/2022
BEDFORD (M)	22407	43	PEAKS RD/RTE 43	LITTLE OTTER RIVER	10/17/2022
BOTETOURT	3159	11	LEE HIGHWAY/RTE 11	THRASHERS BRANCH	10/17/2022
FRANKLIN	7777	220	V H GOODE HWY/RTE 220	SFORK LITTLE CHESTNUT CR	10/17/2022
FRANKLIN	7779	220	VIRGIL H. GOODE HY	MAGGOODE CREEK	10/17/2022
FRANKLIN	7776	220	V H GOOD HWY/RTE 220	N FORK CHESTNUT CREEK	10/15/2022
ROANOKE	14956	311	CATAWBA VLDR/RTE 311	CATAWBA CREEK	10/15/2022
BEDFORD	2872	735	ROCK CLIFF RD/RTE 735	DIFFICULT CREEK	10/14/2022
BEDFORD	2896	755	SIMMONSML LRD/RTE755	BORE AUGER CREEK	10/14/2022
BEDFORD	2915	781	TABERNAACLELANE/RTE 781	IVY CREEK	10/14/2022
FRANKLIN	7780	220	SBL RTE 220	BLACKWATER RIVER	10/14/2022
ROANOKE	14933	220	FRANKLIN RD/RTE 220	NARROWS CREEK	10/14/2022
CRAIG	5477	311	PAINT BANK RD/RTE 311	BRANCH OF JOHNS CREEK	10/13/2022
GILES	8436	635	BIG STONY CK RD/RTE 635	LAUREL BRANCH	10/13/2022
GILES	8453	653	EATON CHAPL RD/RTE 653	SUGAR RUN	10/13/2022
GILES	8325	42	GILES/PULASKITPK/RTE 42	WABASH CREEK	10/13/2022
GILES	8488	722	GLEN ALTON RD/RTE 722	STONEY CREEK	10/13/2022
BOTETOURT	3406	628	PREASE RD/RTE 628	LONG RUN	10/11/2022
BEDFORD	2622	221	FOREST RD	LITTLE OTTER RIVER	10/8/2022
BEDFORD	2605	122	MONETA ROAD/RTE 122	STONY FORK CREEK	10/8/2022
BEDFORD	2621	221	FORREST RD/RTE 221	ELK CREEK	10/7/2022
BEDFORD	2577	24	STEWARTSVILLE RD/RTE 24	BEAVERDAM CREEK	10/7/2022
GILES	8467	720	GRAVELY HILL RD/RTE 720	STONEY CREEK	10/7/2022
BOTETOURT	3394	622	SOLITUDE RD/RTE 622	SPROUTS RUN	10/6/2022
MONTGOMERY	12236	629	BRADSHAW RD/RTE 629	BRANCH OF BRADSHAW CREEK	10/6/2022
MONTGOMERY	12208	614	TAN BARK RD/RTE 614	BRUSH CREEK	10/6/2022
PATRICK	13252	610	HELMS ROAD/RTE 610	BRANCH DAN RIVER	10/4/2022
BOTETOURT	3158	11	LEE HIGHWAY/RTE 11	LOONEY MILL CREEK	10/3/2022
BOTETOURT	3156	11	LEE HWY/RTE 11	JAMES RVR, CSX & RT 1318	10/3/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.



# Town of Herndon Voters Re-elect Sheila Olem as Mayor

Shake-up in town council, meet first term councilmembers.

When Mayor Sheila A. Olem greets the newly seated 2023-2024 Herndon Town Council in January, half of the six members will be serving their first terms. Olem won her bid for a second term as mayor in the seven-member Herndon Town Council.

On Nov. 8, Olem narrowly defeated challenger Sean M. Regan with 40.63 percent of the vote to Regan's 38.35 percent. The third mayoral candidate Jasbinder Singh received 20.38 percent of the vote. Regan and Singh serve on the current Town Council. Their terms expire on Dec. 31, 2022.

Regan and Singh squared off against Olem, who, as mayor presides over the Town Council public hearings on the second and fourth Tuesdays and work sessions on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Her powers are derived from the Town Charter and general laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Shortly after being elected for her first term as mayor, before commencing each session, Olem reminded all councilmembers of proper decorum, as she did on Tues. Oct. 25. "Before we get started, I'd like to remind everyone to please go by the town guidelines for meetings which are up on the prompter. And that is to wait until the chair recognizes you before making comments. Be respectful. Refrain from threatening, intimidating, or obscene language and attacks that are harmful," Olem said.

Nine candidates appeared on the ballot for the six Member of Council positions. Three incumbents, Naila Alam, Cesar del Aguila, and Pradip Dhakal, their seats. Three more will begin as first-term councilmembers. They are Clark A Hedrick, Keven J. LeBlanc Jr., and Donielle M. Scherff. All will take office on Jan. 1, 2023. Voters defeated incumbent and three-term councilmember Signe Friedrichs and challengers Steven M. Porter and Roland B. Taylor.

Traditionally, at the first meeting of the term, the Mayor and Town Council approve a resolution naming the councilmember who receives the highest number of votes during the general election to the post of vice mayor. If that tradition holds, Clark A. Hedrick will be named vice mayor since he received the most votes. This will be Hedrick's first term as a councilmember.

**Comment by Mayor Sheila A. Olem:**

"I am grateful to the voters in the Town of Herndon for again putting their confidence in me to represent you as your mayor. I will continue to do all I can to earn your trust and serve all our constituents, organizations, and businesses. I also commend my opponents, Sean Regan and Jasbinder Singh, for their willingness to serve our town and wish them the best.

"I welcome back to our Council Naila Alam, Cesar del Aguila, and Pradip Dhakal, as well as new members of council Clark Hedrick, Keven LeBlanc, and Donielle Scherff. Thank you to Councilwoman Signe Friedrichs, Steven Porter, and Roland Taylor for your



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**Sheila A. Olem is re-elected for her second term as mayor of the Town of Herndon**



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Herndon Town councilmember-elect Clark A. Hedrick begins his first term on Jan. 1, 2023. Hedrick will likely be named by approved resolution as vice mayor since he received the highest number of votes for a councilmember.**

**2022 November General Unofficial Results**

Mayor (HERNDON) 5 precincts of 6 reporting		
Candidate	Votes	Percent
Sheila A. Olem	2,542	40.63%
Sean M. Regan	2,399	38.35%
Jasbinder Singh	1,275	20.38%
Write In	40	0.64%

Last Modified on 11/08/2022 11:46 p.m. VA Dept. of Elections

Member Town Council (HERNDON) x6 5 precincts of 6 reporting		
Candidate	Votes	Percent
Clark A. Hedrick	3,372	12.21%
Pradip Dhakal	3,334	12.07%
Keven J. Leblanc Jr.	3,164	11.46%
Cesar A. del Aguila	3,109	11.26%
Naila Alam	3,084	11.17%
Donielle M. Scherff	2,965	10.74%
Stevan M. Porter	2,871	10.40%
Roland B. Taylor	2,692	9.75%
Signe Friedrich	2,685	9.72%
Write In	342	1.24%

Last Modified on 11/08/2022 11:46 p.m. VA Dept. of Elections

**2022 November General Election unofficial results, Mayor (Herndon) and Member of Council (Herndon), six members.**

eagerness to serve our town in this capacity and wish all of you the best and look forward to your continued involvement in this community.

"To our Herndon community, thank you to all who voted and participated in our democracy. I look forward to getting back to town business and addressing our desires to work with our community partners to continue our downtown events, maintaining and improving our town services, as well as our improving our roadways to provide safe, walkable, bike-friendly access for all."

# Sully Police Warn Residents about Thefts

Thieves are swiping airbags, jewelry and catalytic converters.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

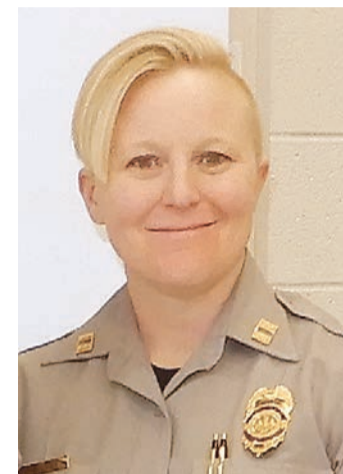
Local residents are being advised to be on the alert for airbag thefts from their vehicles, as well as people who'll try to steal their jewelry. During last week's meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee, Capt. Rachel Levy and MPO Sabrina Ruck updated residents about these current crime trends in the Centreville/Chantilly area.

"Particularly in the Little Rocky Run area, we've been receiving reports of several thefts of airbags – especially from Hondas," said Levy, the station commander. "The areas targeted are where cars are parked out on the streets."

"So we recommend using The Club, or a similar device, to lock your steering wheel and prevent thieves from doing this," said Ruck, the station's crime prevention officer. "They want to be in and out of your vehicle quickly and won't want to take the time to cut through it."

Levy also noted that airbags cost about \$1,500 to replace. Saying that criminals are striking these cars in the early-morning hours, she urged residents, "If you see someone loitering, call us. We're increasing patrols, and our midnight officers are aware of what's going on, but we can't be everywhere at once."

In addition, she alerted people to be on the lookout for jewelry scammers. Last Tuesday, Nov. 8, said Levy, "Someone approached a woman outside Costco and tried to show her some fake jewelry. And while



BONNIE HOBBS/CONNECTION  
**Police Capt. Rachel Levy**

she looked at it, they stole her own necklace from around her neck. It's happening around the county, and it's something to be aware of."

The station's community outreach officer, MPO Meg Hawkins, noted, as well, that because of the continuing problem of thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles, G&C Tire and Auto Service will hold another etching event. It's slated for Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at 14008 Willard Road in Chantilly.

"Thieves are primarily targeting Priuses and work trucks and vans," said Levy.

Catalytic converters are stolen due to the valuable metals contained within them. Once removed, they're hard to trace and expensive to replace. During the free event at G&C, special, anti-theft labels with unique codes that'll etch each vehicle's catalytic converter will be applied. This service will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis; no appointments are necessary.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

FROM PAGE 5

one-bedroom and six two-bedroom apartments. Enhancements include numerous amenities for its older adult residents, including a fitness center, arts and crafts room, social hall, sunroom, game room, outdoor terrace, wellness clinic for visiting medical professionals, and on-site management and resident

services offices. All units incorporate Universal Design standards, which were not in place when the original building was constructed in the 1970s. Fifty-four of the 240 units are fully handicap accessible, and the building is Earthcraft and EnergyStar certified.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# Solar Powering Virginia

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN"  
PLUM

The results of the elections in Virginia and throughout the nation speak for themselves. There was a clear rejection of the craziness and extremism of the past several years; many who were part of that movement failed in the elections and others who subscribed to its beliefs are scrambling to get off the ship. The sun is shining a bit brighter in the Commonwealth and the Nation. Democracy prevailed. I am not going to carry the sunshine analogy any further, but I do want to bring readers up to date on other very exciting events

coming into the sunlight, and that is the progress being made in Virginia is converting the energy of the sun into solar power.

Dominion Energy is by far the largest utility providing electricity to most of the citizens in the Commonwealth. It has made amazing progress the last few years in diversifying the way it produces electricity. According to industry experts Dominion Energy is among the top ten states with utility scale solar electricity production. Under the provisions of the Virginia Energy Act and Dominion's plans, the utility is expected to produce 16,100 megawatts of solar power by 2035. That will be a major help to the Commonwealth in reaching

its clean energy goals. In addition to Virginia, Dominion produces solar power in nine other states.

Last week I attended the kick-off event of a partnership between Community Housing Partners and Dimension Renewable Energy to provide lower-cost electricity to residents who live in an affordable housing project in Dumfries, Virginia. Partnerships such as these known as shared solar bring down the cost of electricity for homeowners while contributing to meeting environmental goals. The legislation supporting such partnerships will be under debate in the next session of the General Assembly with a goal of expanding it.

Recently, the Fairfax County School Board approved a contract to install rooftop solar panels on a school building. Under a solar power purchase agreement (PPA), Anandale High School will receive solar panels as a pilot program to give Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) a working knowledge of these installations. The action I believe has been too long coming for a technology that is actively being used throughout the country. The

flat roofs of school buildings make ideal locations for solar panels that are relatively lightweight. Reportedly the schools are working to advance projects at Chantilly High School, Thoreau Middle School, Hayfield and Robinson secondary schools, and Terraset and Mason Crest elementary schools before the end of this year

In addition to these installations to generate electricity, FCPS has 10 schools with solar panels that serve more as educational resources than power sources. These units along with the electricity-producing ones provide an important lesson for children on alternative energy, reducing pollution, and saving our environment.

There are more opportunities for consumers to install solar panels on their homes. Unfortunately, the orientation of my house along with the number of trees around it do not make a solar installation practical. I plan to join a shared solar program as soon as I can. As with any new venture, beware of the salesperson who may not be knowledgeable or ethical. Here's to more solar power in the Commonwealth.

## Be Part of 2022 Children's and Teens' Connection

One week of December for many years, this newspaper has devoted its pages to the creativity of local students, teens and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keep-sake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection, including Children's Gazette and Children's Almanac, is a long-time tradition.

You can see last year's editions by visiting <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> and scrolling down to Children's Edition.

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

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email. Writing should be submitted in text format: docx or google docs, or pasted in the body of an email. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format. These can be submitted via google drive as well. Please share all google drive files with [kimm.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kimm.mary@gmail.com)

Some suggestions, but different ideas are welcome:

Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends,

pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

Short answers: What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite possession? What makes a good friend? What is the best gift you've ever received?

Your opinion (100 words) about movies, food, music, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

Poetry, short story or other creative writing.

News stories or photos from school newspapers.

We must be able to print the full first and last name of the student artist/writer with the submission, along with student's age, grade and school or town name.

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

Please send all submissions by Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. The Children's Connection/Gazette will publish the middle of December, the edition with publication date Dec. 14, 2022.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to [kimm.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kimm.mary@gmail.com)

## CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33)



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
Sheila Olem, mayor of the Town of Herndon



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
The crowd at Innovation Center Station

# Rail To Dulles and Beyond

FROM PAGE 3

and then goes westbound to Innovation Center Station. That path has been open to the public for months,” Fairfield said. “It was a 10-year project to get that cobbled together.”

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust said that the Metro Silver Line is a game changer for residents and businesses by reducing single-vehicle trips, reducing climate and carbon footprints, and increasing access to affordable housing. “This project contributes to an ... efficient transit network that is crucial to Fairfax County’s economy.” Next to the Innovation Center is the 52-acre, mixed-use Arrowbrook Center, which is planned for 2.3 million square feet of development. Immediately across is the CIT building and 104 acres in Fairfax County that remain undeveloped.

According to McKay, when people land at Dulles airport, especially from other countries, and come to the most powerful place in the world, Washington, D.C., they walk around the airport looking for the transit station. “From where they come from, it’s just known; it’s natural. You put transit stations next to international airports.”

People will celebrate the Metro line and



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

A group of people with perspective on how long this day has been in the works, from left, Sharon Bulova, Vivian Watts, Jennifer Boysko, Kate Hanley and Tim Kaine.

“all the economic development, all the residential development, all the retail and commercial development associated with it” 100 years from now, Connolly said.

Randy Clark, the new head of WMATA,

said he is committed to “a lot of development around our transit stations so people can have a much more environmentally equitable, more affordable way to live.” And every day, WMATA has to give the area the

safe, reliable, and frequent service it needs.

## Reston Station

The final event of the whirlwind openings was held inside the 20-story office building at 1850 Opportunity Way, part of the Reston Town Center Expansion, directly across from the station. It is distinguished from others because the development there is already Metro ready.

“Whereas many of the other stations have developments to come, this station was prepared for this for decades. It’s been developing in an urban format, and we’ve been ready for Metro for a long time,” said Peter V. Otteni, executive vice president and co-head of Boston Properties Washington, D.C., region.

The Link Reston Town Center shuttle is an essential component. Otteni said Metro will do “a really good thing linearly,” but the shuttle will get people out into the neighborhoods.

Robert Goudie, executive director of the Reston Town Center Association, admitted

he did not have a SmartTrip card. He has a better solution: SmarTrip for Google Pay. It allows Goudie to pay with his phone anywhere SmarTrip is accepted, including the train, bus, and Metro-owned parking lots.



# NEWS

## 'Hidden in Plain Sight' for Parents of Teens

Fairfax County police are offering a hands-on, learning adventure for parents and guardians of teenagers. Called "Hidden in Plain Sight," it'll be held this Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 6:30-8:45 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

Attendees will be guided through a presentation opening their eyes to what's right in front of them. This program begins with a setup of a teenager's bedroom which includes close to 100 "red flags" indicating risky behavior. Parents are encouraged to touch everything and identify these red flags.

Afterward is a PowerPoint presentation detailing the red-flag props the room contained and how they indicate or are used in risky behavior. Police include up-to-date statistics and local trends, and law-enforcement officers will share experiences they've had in the community identifying risky behavior and helping put teens on the right path to a healthy life.

Register at <https://bit.ly/hipsnov22>. Or register for other, upcoming presentations dates at <https://bit.ly/fcpdhips>. Registration is required, and seats are limited for this free event. For further information or to arrange a presentation for an organization, club or group, email PFC Meg Hawkins at [FPCDHPHS@fairfax-county.gov](mailto:FPCDHPHS@fairfax-county.gov).

## Scouts May Tour Sully Police Station

The Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly, will host Scout tours on Sunday, Nov. 20, from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. These tours will be done by appointment only and are first come, first served, so Scout leaders are encouraged to reserve their spots as soon as possible.

The tours are open to all Boy and Girl Scout troops in the Centreville/Chantilly/Clifton/Fairfax Station area. Besides the group tour of the police station, troops will also receive a short presentation about the police department. After signing up for a one-hour slot at <https://bit.ly/sullyscout112022>, Scout leaders will receive an email with further instructions.

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### Obituary

### Obituary



**Ronny Watts** passed away on Nov 02, 2022 at age 79. He was born on May 21, 1943 in Washington DC to Doris (Sirota) and Arnold Watts, now deceased. He is survived by two sons, Trent Watts and Russell (Lindsey) Watts, and his sister Suzanne (Nordahl) Watts Brue. He was Granddaddy to Riley and Leila Watts, daughters of Russell, and Uncle Ronny to Alexia Brue, Erik Brue, and Marget (Brue) Ofek. He was much loved by all.

Ronny grew up in Chevy Chase, Md, and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School.

Through his life, people of all ages, and from all stations, were impacted by Ronny's engaging personality, amazed by his grit and determination, and touched by his kindness, compassion and generosity. Ronny met life with gusto and humor -- devilish, mischievous and irreverent, he was fun! Only he could say something a certain way, get away with it, and make you laugh -- because underneath he had a huge heart and showed it. These qualities served him well in all fields --sports, business, and being a devoted father, husband, brother, and son,

Playing basketball as a high-schooler on the competitive basketball courts of Chevy Chase, he was noticed and encouraged by the famed Celtics Coach, Red Auerbach. He won a basketball scholarship to Wake Forest, where he set rebounding records which stood for decades, and led his team to exciting ACC victories against much larger schools. He then captained a gold-medal winning Maccabiah Team. After college, he was drafted by the World Champion Boston Celtics, fulfilling a life-long dream. As a result of his teamwork, and hard work, he earned great respect from his teammates (Sports Illustrated nicknamed him "Bruiser Watts") and created many lifelong friendships.

With his natural charisma, he then appeared in 5 CLIO-award-winning TV Commercials about friendship with his good friend and former teammate Bill Russell. The "Good Friends are for Keeps" series was created for ATT's WATS Line and led to Ronny becoming the national spokesman for the very successful WATS Line (Wide-Area Telecommunications Service) campaign.

In other professional achievements locally, he co-founded the Fairfax County Public School Education Foundation, raising funds for the Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology, served as board member for the Special Olympics, and founded the DC Urban Coalition, organizing summer basketball tournaments in DC. He also was the color announcer for the Washington Bullets, Maryland Terrapins, and Georgetown Hoyas and in 1994 he was elected to the Greater Washington Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Roxanne, created an award-winning real estate business in the Reston area.

However, nothing gave him more pride and enjoyment than raising his sons...and eating hardshell crabs with family and friends came in a strong second!

In his later life, due to medical challenges, he was a resident of the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington since 2011. There, due to his positive mental attitude and tough mindset, he would often be an inspiration to other patients. He also became a beloved fixture at the adjacent Jewish Community Center where he swam regularly, and made many friends within the Mens Group. Ronny found strength in family and friends, the music he loved and books he read. His mental fortitude was legend, he made innumerable comebacks from critical situations, and many who worked with him said he had the strongest will of anyone they'd ever met.

Donations may be made to MENTOR, the youth mentoring charity founded by his friend, Bill Russell at [RonnyWattsMemorial.org](http://RonnyWattsMemorial.org)

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FROM PAGE 6

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**GIANT FOOD ANNOUNCES LOCAL PRODUCE BOXES**  
 Giant Food announces the relaunch of its Local Produce Boxes featuring locally sourced, in-season produce sold exclusively through Giant Delivers. Available throughout the summer without a subscription or commitment, the boxes retail for \$20.00 and contain six or more items from local farms in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware. For more information and to purchase a local produce box, visit <https://giantfood.com/pages/giants-local-best>.

**METRO TRANSIT POLICE TO USE BODY WORN CAMERAS**  
 The Metro Transit Police Department will equip officers with body worn cameras (BWC), adding a new tool to MTPD's crime fighting initiatives. The program is designed to create an additional layer of transparency for sworn officers who protect Metro customers and employees. MTPD is in the initial stages of developing the program, supported by a grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) of approximately \$905,000.

**VIRGINIA ABC EXTENDS CLOSING HOURS IN 31 STORES**  
 To provide greater customer convenience, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) has extended Monday through Saturday closing hours from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in 31 stores. Customers are encouraged to visit Virginia ABC's website at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) to search for stores and view operating hours, as well as order spirits online for in-store or curbside pickup, or home delivery in select areas.

**WALKING/RUNNING PROGRAM**  
 Calling women – need a fun program to start or restart your walking and/or running program? Check out the Women's Training Program with Reston Runners <https://restonrunners.redpodium.com/2022-womens-training-program>. It is an 8-week program meeting each Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School to complete a 3 mile course by walking, walk/ run or running. All coached by a great group of women.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**  
 Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).



# CALENDAR



District5 will perform on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022 at McLean Community Center.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 17

Performing Arts Documentaries. 1 p.m. At the Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn a little about the performing arts through these one-hour (or so) documentaries. Join Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff for a discussion after.

## NOV. 17 TO DEC. 11

"The Rainmaker." At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. "The Rainmaker," written by N. Richard Nash and directed by Deidra LaWan Starnes. Not only is the Curry family farm being paralyzed by a devastating drought, but Lizzie Curry, to the chagrin of her father and brothers, is unmarried with no viable prospects. A charming, confident trickster named Starbuck comes to town and promises to bring rain in exchange for \$100, setting off a series of events that enable Lizzie to see herself in a new light. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 18

Snack & Paint. 7-9 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, love snacks or want to get your hands dirty with some paint, come on down to the Old Firehouse for our Snack & Paint night. Led by a professional art teacher, you will be able to create your own masterpiece with your family while having tons of fun doing so. All materials and snacks are included in the fee.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 19

George Emilio Sanchez: "In the Court of the Conqueror." 7 p.m. George Emilio Sanchez's solo performance work is the second installment of the "Performing the Constitution" series. The performance revolves around the landmark Supreme Court rulings that have diminished the Tribal Sovereignty of Native Nations in the U.S. Part historical, part autobiographical, this piece interlaces Sanchez's experiences growing up in an Ecuadorian immigrant household navigating generational trauma and Indigenous identity.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 19

Food and Hygiene Collection. 10 a.m. to noon. At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Items needed: canned and boxed soups, spaghetti and macaroni, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter and jelly, applesauce, granola and fruit bars, canned and boxed milk, canned meats and tuna and more. Visit [www.HerndonRestonRotary.org](http://www.HerndonRestonRotary.org)

## SUNDAY/NOV. 20

Chamber Music Series: District5. 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. District5 is a daring Washington, D.C.-based wind quintet that specializes in new music and new transcriptions. The group was the recipient of a 2016 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant with composer Evis Sammoutis and has recently performed at "The REACH" at the Kennedy Center, Dumbarton Oaks, U.S. Department of State and the Library of Congress, among other venues.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 20

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring IONA: Local Celtic mainstay IONA transports its audience to all the Celtic cultures, and their transplants in the New World. Lead singer, bouzouki and bodhrán player, Barbara Tresidder Ryan, and Bernard Argent on wooden flute, whistles, vocals and percussion, are joined by Jim Queen, fiddle, banjo and vocals and Leigh Oben on basses of all descriptions. Visit [IonaMusic.com](http://IonaMusic.com).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 20

Brass Quintet Performs. 4 p.m. At Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, N.E., Vienna. The award-winning Baltimore Brass Quintet will present a concert on Sunday, November 20 at 4 p.m. Their program, entitled "Western Skies," will feature works by American composers including Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland as well as arrangements of theme music from the 1960s shows The Magnificent Seven and The Wild, Wild West. The concert is free, with donations requested to support the church's music program and concert series. Call 703-938-6521 or see the Website at <https://holyccomforter.com/>.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 26

Turkey Trot. The Langley Crew Team, winners of multiple state titles, is hosting its inaugural Turkey Trot on Saturday, Nov. 26, a 5K race that will start at Langley High School and make its way through the neighborhood before finishing at the school. The race starts at 9 a.m. on Nov. 26. The registration fee is \$35 through Nov. 1, fee goes up to \$50 after Nov. 1. Participants who register by Nov. 1 are guaranteed a commemorative race t-shirt. For residents who cannot make it to the race, you can make a donation and/or if you are a local businesses and residents, consider becoming a Langley Crew Turkey Trot 5K sponsor. Click here <https://www.langleycrew.com/page/show/7522386-langley-crew-turkey-trot-5k>.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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 local 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. The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of our dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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## Drugged, But in a Good Way



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I could get addicted to this. What is this, you ask? It's yours truly being rescued from financial oblivion, familial fracture and/or cancer progression.

When last we visited this subject, I had just been told in no uncertain dollars, that continuing my monthly thyroid cancer prescription medicine was going to start costing me \$984 and change. Though the pharmacist maintained that I was covered by my existing plan, the bonus plan (for the sake of brevity) that covered the entire \$20,000+ monthly retail cost (and my \$984 share) had not been renewed. In short, I no longer qualified. The means-tested evaluation had dumped me back on the mean streets.

Paying retail for the drug myself and/or not incurring the cost/not taking the medication at all were equally unattractive. I had to put my thinking cap on, maybe think outside of the box to attempt to remedy this potential hardship. First, I appealed my bonus plan denial by providing additional financial documentation – as requested. However, the automated message said that process would be complete 45 days after receipt. If that timeline was accurate, I would need two months of the medication (or go two months without the medicine) before my renewal was even considered. Two scenarios which were equally unpalatable.

I had about a week or so before this medication hammer was to come down: do or die, quite literally. A few sleepless nights into my life-changing-forever deadline (pun intended), it came to me, or rather I remembered something. Approximately eight years ago, I was prescribed a new heavy-duty chemotherapy drug after my previous medicine had stopped working. The oncologists suggested a drug (a daily pill, actually). I said sure, and he ordered the prescription. (This is all before I had ever heard of this 'bonus plan.') Within a few days, I received a text from the pharmacy advising me that my new lung cancer prescription was ready for pick up. At that time, my co-pays for my various prescription medications were \$10, \$20, et cetera. However, before I went to pick up my prescription, not wanting to assume too much, I thought I should call to find out the cost, just to be on the safe side. The cost: "\$2500." I was told. I asked: (sort of being a wise-ass – and hopeful at the same time): "Is that for a year?" "No. One month," I was told. I was shocked by the price – as I had health insurance/prescription drug coverage and stammered something like I had to get back to them.

I can't recall with whom I was sharing this drug cost problem, but it was suggested that I call the pharmaceutical company that makes the drug and explain my circumstances. Sometimes, I was told, the companies share the cost with the patient. I was still working full time then, had health insurance but was not on Medicare or Medicaid. I was not without means; I just didn't have an additional \$2,500 per month to spend out of the blue on medicine. I called the company and spoke with their patient liaison-type person and explained my dilemma. Amazingly, there was a cost-sharing program and even more amazingly, I was accepted into their program and ended up not paying a dime for the entire next year that I was prescribed this pill – before it stopped working (that's the nature of cancer treatment; the medicine is effective until it isn't and then you switch to a new treatment). It was a great year of not paying for my cancer medicine.

History repeated itself. Although this time, I thought to call the pharmaceutical company on my own. First, I went on their web site and saw "patient enrollment program." I read a little but wasn't certain I qualified. I decided to call and speak to a real person. And boy oh boy did that person understand my situation and appreciate my call. They couldn't have been nicer, any more sincere or more willing to help me navigate their process to determine if I qualified for assistance. I answered their questions, completed an online application, and was told, I'd receive and answer about possible enrollment in the next day. Sure enough, the next day came and so did multiple phone calls to confirm and coordinate my approval and receipt of my next month's prescription cancer medicine. Just like that, the deal was done, and my \$984 monthly prescription bill was eliminated. I received my pills on Thursday of the same week, one day before my last prescription would have run out.

If you heard something that sounded like a gigantic sigh of relief that day, that was me. Breathing normally once again.

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



# VETERANS DAY



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Michael Cutler, 2nd vice commander at Post #184, installs one of 68 small parade flags where the majestic Avenue of Flags would have flown along with Post's signboard



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Michael Cutler, 2nd vice commander of The Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184 Herndon-Reston, sets in cemetery flowers with a grave vase to the final resting place for Sgt. Wayne M. Kidwell, U. S. Army.

## Veterans Day 2022, Post 184 Herndon- Reston

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Typically, the Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184 of Herndon-Reston would host two activities for Veterans Day, one of which would be the Avenue of Flags. It comprises 68 large cotton coffin flags installed early that morning and flown from dawn to dusk when they are taken down. The avenue is a patriotic symbol remembering and honoring interred veterans. The Post's annual Veterans Day Observance at 11 a.m. is another event.

In anticipation of Tropical Storm Nicole in the region, The American Legion Wayne M. Kidwell Post #184 Herndon- Reston, in collaboration with the Town of Herndon, canceled the outdoor Veteran's Day Observance scheduled for Friday, Nov. 11, at the Veteran's Memorial on the Town Green. The Avenue of Flags was also canceled.

Instead, Christine Cutler, adjutant Post 184, and Michael Cutler, 2nd vice commander and Avenue of Flags coordinator at Post #184, reverted to what they called their "Covid approach" a day before the storm.

"We put up small flags and little placards with the military veterans' names, their service organizations, and ranks. We did this up and down the cemetery. We always want to



PHOTO VIA HONORSTATES.ORG

Wayne M. Kidwell, U.S. Army. Kidwell died on March 8, 1968. Recorded circumstances attributed to hostile action, small arms fire in South Vietnam, Thua Thien province. Kidwell was 19 years old. He is buried at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in the Town of Herndon.

remember our veterans. Always," Chris said. "Our veterans served in horrendous conditions, and some died for our country. We need to honor them."

Michael mentioned that this Veterans Day, two more families had lent Post 184 their loved ones' casket flags to be flown as part of the Avenue of Flags on Veterans Day and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Post 184 Commander David Womack at Veterans Day Ceremony, Harmony at Chantilly

Memorial Day to honor and remember them.

According to Chris, Post 184 did hold a Veterans Day ceremony, but on Saturday at Harmony at Chantilly, an independent, assisted living and memory care senior living community.

Post Commander David Womack, Vice Commander Mike Cutler, Sergeant at Arms Rob Martin, Lois Olsen, Nic Leshock, and

Christine Cutler were among the Post 184 members. The Reston Chorale and members of the Fairfax Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution sang the national anthem in support of this event.

"The Ceremony was well attended by approximately 50 veterans and Harmony residents," Cutler said. Following the ceremony, the DAR provided refreshments to residents.

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