

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Herndon ♦ ^{Oak Hill} Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW



Play-within-a-Play Goes Wrong You'll Love It

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TJ Craypoff and Caitlyn
An swordfighting.

Celebrating Herndon Station

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Grieving Crashes That Kill Pedestrians

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 23-29, 2022

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Silver Lining for Thanksgiving

DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

I am thankful that the Silver Line of Metro is now a reality. Persons living in Loudoun County can get on the train at Ashburn, the westernmost station of the Line, and ride to Largo, Maryland, without getting out of their seat. For some a trip might be to go from Reston to downtown for work or educational or cultural reasons. Persons living in the District of Columbia or Maryland may make their way to Tysons Corner or Dulles or points in between for their jobs or for the educational opportunities available in the region. The new line provides a thread that can tie our region together in an environmentally friendly way and enrich all parts of the area.

The line was a long time coming. The forward-thinking planners who envisioned and built Dulles Airport in the 1960s set aside land on which the Dulles Toll Road and the Silver Line are built. From that early vision of the transportation needs of the region would be a long stretch of doubt, reluctance, and lack of political will that needed to be overcome.

To respond to the resistance to

making bold steps to meet our transportation needs, I along with Patty Nicoson and other business and community leaders established the Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA). I am thankful for the business and community leaders with whom I worked on this project for the persistence we had to show and for the number of times we had to nurture the project back to life. It was particularly fulfilling to see the politicians who lined up to show their support for the Extension at the ribbon-cutting when some of them had been among the most difficult to convince in the beginning. Some had even expressed opinions in the early years that the project would never be built.

There are other silver linings at this Thanksgiving time. I continue to be astonished at the generosity of so many who organize and contribute to charities in our area that help feed, clothe, and house those in need in our community. Our local governments in Northern Virginia are very progressive, but it takes the whole community



Plum

of volunteers, nonprofits, and faith groups to make our community open to those in need.

I am also thankful for the wonderful educational systems we have in our communities in Northern Virginia. The dedicated men and women who teach our young people deserve our daily thanks. We have the beginnings of more universal early-education programs that will reward us with future student success because of their early start. Likewise, our public safety and fire and rescue programs are without equal making us among the safest places in the world in which to live.

Is everything perfect? No, it seldom is. It seems to me that we need to honestly acknowledge where we are in our quest for a more open and just society.

Some will grumble that we cannot solve the problems we have—just like they did with the Dulles Rail Silver Line. But that project shows us that no matter how big the problem might be, if we can dream a solution, we can make it a reality!

CONNECTION

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF HERNDON

Herndon Councilmember Signe Friedrichs, Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), Fairfax County Board Chair Jeff McKay (D), Rep. Gerry Connolly (D- 11), Herndon Mayor Sheila Olem, Herndon past mayor Lisa Merkel, Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), and Herndon Councilmember Pradip Dhakal cut the ribbon at the long-awaited Silver Line Herndon Station on Wed., Nov.16 celebrating the first full day of service.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Looking down from the Silver Line Herndon Station to festivities celebrating the first full day of service. The Pride of Herndon, the Herndon High School Band, provided music for the event.

Ribbon Cutting Welcomes Herndon Station

Town's Transit nearly derailed decades ago.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Nov. 16, residents of Herndon, business owners, and longtime supporters of Metrorail to Dulles gathered at the Silver Line Herndon Station to celebrate its first full day of service. Mayor Sheila Olem talked about many former town mayors, like Tom. Rust, Richard C. Thoesen, Carol A. Bruce, Michael O'Reilly, Steve DeBenedittis, and Lisa Merkel. Their hard work and good ideas kept Herndon on track for the Metro Silver Line.

"The rail goes back many, many years. I was surprised (to learn) when I moved here in the 1990s that they had been planning this since the 60s," Olem said. She discussed how the Metro would affect commute times for town residents.

"Normally, it will take 10 minutes to get to work at Dulles Airport (using the Metro)," she said. Previously, riders who rode the bus took 45 minutes, "meandering all around," she said.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D) said that when he first became involved with the Town of Herndon after being elected chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, he was told that Herndon would be bypassed in the Metrorail plan. "Well, ladies and gentlemen, we're not bypassed. This station is part of the Dulles corridor trunk, which means that we're connected. We're connected to



The three mayors, Herndon Mayor Sheila Olem, former mayor Michael O'Reilly and former mayor Lisa Merkel

the urban core of the city," Connolly said. "We're connected up and down the corridor with Reston, Tysons, and the airport. We are going to be able to offer a choice in terms of their mobility options."

Connolly applauded political leaders who had a vision and were "committed to getting things done." He mentioned U.S. Sen. John Warner, a "stalwart on this project," who helped on the Republican side of the aisle in the US Senate, and U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, who worked on the Republican side in the House.

"Of course, our excellent governors, now



Herndon Mayor Sheila Olem.

Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, were stalwart allies in schmoozing the Bush administration, which really didn't like transit. ... Tim Kaine, I don't know how he did it, but he got the then Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters, to agree to this project ... It's a glorious day. It's a wonderful day. I look forward to cutting this ribbon."

Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D) said that having something good to share the day before with colleagues warmed her heart when they attended Metro's opening day celebration. "We have Innovation Center; we have the Town of Herndon. Reston is right down the street, as well as Ashburn and Dulles Airport," she said.

Boysko described how former Herndon mayor Lisa Merkel brought the project to

gether. "Lisa really went to the mat and showed serious leadership," Boysko said.

Chairman Jeff McKay said that if anybody had doubts about the significance of transit after yesterday, he had a story to tell them that happened the night before. He got in the garage at the Reston Town Center at the end of his near-last event, and his next event was in Mount Vernon in Fairfax County. "I typed it into the GPS, and it said an hour and 22 minutes by car. It took every second of that hour and 22 minutes last night in the dark rain to get from Reston to Mount Vernon," McKay said.

Transit is the future of Fairfax County, McKay said. It creates ecologically sustain-

NOTICE OF WATER RATE AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING December 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2022, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2023, include the following:

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,510 to \$4,640.*
- An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$19,400 to \$22,090.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,480 to \$1,790.*
- An increase in the Account Charge from \$41 to \$44.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge for meters larger than the standard 5/8" residential meter. See the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges for details.
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.46 to \$3.65 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.85 to \$4.00.
- An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$50 to \$53.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
- A decrease in the Overhead Charges for Labor from 103% to 102%.
- An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge Inspection Fee from \$40 to \$42.
- An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$20 to \$25.

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

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$228 million budget for calendar year 2023¹. Water sales are expected to provide \$202 million and the remaining \$26 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2022	2023
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 59,399	\$ 66,276
Power and Utilities	11,804	14,120
Chemicals	9,905	11,956
Purchased Water	7,312	7,513
Supplies and Materials	5,358	5,462
Insurance	1,146	1,370
Fuel	963	1,015
Postage	584	618
Contractual Services	11,831	12,912
Professional Services	1,320	1,365
Other	2,322	2,613
Sub-Total	111,944	125,220
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,949)	(11,141)
Total	\$ 100,995	\$ 114,079

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$46,327,337
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$55,563,000

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

Visit [fairfaxwater.org/rates](https://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates) to view a copy of the proposed changes.

Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Tonya Clement at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

CAPPIES

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



In the play-within-a-play, stagehands and relatives of Charles Haversham discover him (Elias Collier) dead on the couch.



Most of the cast members of Westfield High's upcoming Cappies show, "The Play that Goes Wrong."

'Laughing from Start to Finish'

Westfield High presents 'The Play that Goes Wrong.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of nearly 50, Westfield High will present "The Play that Goes Wrong" as its Cappies show. This acclaimed comedy won London's Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy, and Westfield's now bringing it to the local community.

Show times are Thursday-Friday, Dec. 1-2, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15, adults, and \$10, students. Cash or checks only at the door, but all seating is reserved, so online purchases at www.westfieldtheatre.com are strongly recommended.

The story is about the Cornley Drama Society, which is putting on a play called, "The Murder at Haversham Manor" – and during its opening night, everything that can possi-

SEE CAPPIES, PAGE 10
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Help Keep Local Children Warm

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and various community partners are teaming up with Operation Warm to purchase new winter coats for children in the Sully District. Operation Warm is a national nonprofit that manufactures brand-new, high-quality coats and shoes for children in need.

To help with this effort, go to <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/operation-warm-inc/make-your-donation-to-provide-comfort-to-the-children-of-the-sully-district> to donate to Operation Warm. The last day to do so is this Friday, Nov. 25. For more information, email daniel.dolan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-814-7100.

Car Seat Inspections, Dec. 1

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are asked to wear a mask and adhere to social-distancing and safety precautions.

They should also install the child safety seat themselves, so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed, if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for Dec. 15, at the same place and time.

Ribbon Cutting

FROM PAGE 3

able communities, building equity and opportunity since transit connects people to high-quality employment and opportunities.

Supervisor John Foust (Dranesville) congratulated Mayor Sheila Olem. Foust recalled that years ago, when he had the chance to join the Board of Supervisors, Connolly was chairman.

"Things were going crazy

concerning whether this project was going to happen," he said. "I never saw anyone with so much persistence and just wasn't going to let this project get away from us. Many people deserve congratulations, but my personal observation, no one deserves it more than Gerry."

Foust said that when anyone asks him where they should live in Fairfax County, he "doesn't even think twice. ... Move to Herndon," Foust said. "It's so awesome, (and) now it has a Metro."

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A young girl is embraced as she waits to place her remembrance candle for Helen Bahta Oukubazghi at a day of remembrance organized by Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets.
<https://novasafeststreets.org/>



She sets it on the vacant chair.



And looks back

World Day of Remembrance: 21 Pedestrian Fatalities in Fairfax County

Crashes, injury and death waiting to happen.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A driver crashing into a pedestrian or cyclist can be one of the most traumatic collisions anyone experiences. In Fairfax County, especially in its urban areas, there is increased tension between vulnerable road users and vehicle traffic. So far this year, there have been 21 pedestrian fatality collisions in Fairfax County, including three Fairfax County Public School students on their way to and from school, according to Mike Doyle, founder of Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, grieving residents impacted and concerned, plus Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid, Police Chief Kevin Davis, Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D) and others attended a discussion with members of the Fairfax chapter of Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets at Oakton High School in Vienna. Doyle founded Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets in 2017 after being struck by the driver of a car while he was walking in a crosswalk in Old Town Alexandria. Doyle and the others were at Oakton High School to recognize International World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2022.

“Our mission is pretty simple: to advo-

cate for safety on the streets for pedestrians and vulnerable road users,” Doyle said. He told of the organization’s real-time crowd-sourcing for its Near Miss/Dangerous Intersections Survey. It helps identify locations where pedestrians and cyclists have experienced near-miss incidents and other dangers, with data viewable on its website. The statistics are used to advocate for policies and improvements that make streets safer. The data is used to make cases for things like speed cameras. “We go down to Richmond ... It’s a constant effort,” Doyle said.

During the day of remembrance, at least six speakers began to cry or choked up. There were minor solutions told, but the air was like attending a funeral. There was no peace to be found- just heaviness and sorrow and the inevitable next pedestrian crash fatality.

Twenty-one chairs shrouded in white covers formed a semi-circle between Doyle and the audience. “We are going to light a candle in front of each one of these chairs to emphasize that this isn’t just statistics; it’s people,” Doyle said. Slowly the 21 names were read. A young girl stood in line with the elected officials holding candles. She, too, had a candle and waited her turn. Hearing the name Helen Bahta Oukubazghi, the girl walked forward and gently placed her candle in front of the vacant chair. Oukubazghi



Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid



Police Chief Kevin Davis

died when she was crossing Lorton Station Boulevard and a driver struck her, according to the police report.

The county’s most recent pedestrian fatality happened on Nov. 16. A 17-year-old Justice High School student was killed when a driver hit her as she made her way to school, according to Fairfax County police. Reports state that the student was walking east on Columbia Pike when she was hit in the crosswalk.

On Jun. 7, two Oakton High School stu-

dents died, and a classmate was seriously injured when they were hit by a speeding vehicle while walking on a sidewalk near campus between Blake Lane and Five Oaks Road after classes.

“Each of these deaths is preventable,” Reid said.

School Board member Karl Frisch (Providence) described how all school bus stops are now moved off Blake Lane. The board

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The crowd listens at a day of remembrance organized by Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets. <https://novasafestreets.org/>.



Representatives of the Fairfax County School Board at a day of remembrance for vulnerable pedestrians organized by Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets. <https://novasafestreets.org/>

Day of Remembrance

FROM PAGE 6

would continue to partner with the community, whether on the location and routes of bus stops, new traffic signals, traffic lights, or speed zones. School Board Representative Elaine Tholen (Dranesville) said that the school district is in the process of hiring a new Safe Routes to School person. “We previously had a part-time position that will now be a full-time position,” Tholen said.

In 2022, the NOVA Families for Safe Streets dashboard reported 1,828 near-miss incidents. According to Chief Davis, more needs to be done. He added, “I’ve been a big advocate and remain a big advocate of automated traffic enforcement, and I know that’s coming to Fairfax County. That changes driving behaviors.” Davis described Fairfax County as a suburban jurisdiction with pockets of urban areas continuing to grow. It requires their best efforts to prevent pedes-

trian and cyclist fatalities.

Continuing Danger in Plain Sight

Bruce Wright is a founding member of the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB). He advocates for safe pedestrian and bicycle access, especially in the urban-rising Metro transit station areas. Wright called attention to three places that could be dangerous in Reston and Herndon as the new Silver Line Metro stations open.

Wright says that the county sometimes doesn’t do a good job of giving people temporary access while construction is underway. Developers use sidewalks as staging areas, making it harder for pedestrians and bicyclists to get around.

For instance, people are walking and riding against traffic adjacent to the J.W. Marriott Hotel con-

SEE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, PAGE 8

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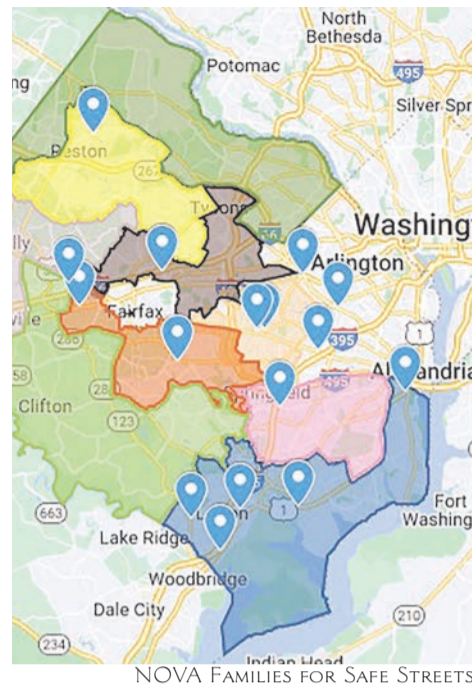
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Construction for sidewalk access at the intersection of Van Buren Street and Herndon Parkway, located one block from the new Herndon Station on the Silver Line, is pending completion.



Each pinpoint is a pedestrian fatality in Fairfax County caused by a vehicle collision. List of 21 victims:

21 Pedestrian Fatalities in Fairfax County in 2022:

- 1/8/2022, Joel Gonzalez, Male, 22 years old
- 2/19/2022, Victor Savier Barillas Deal, Male, 28 years old
- 2/3/2022, Human Xuan, Female, 86 years old
- 2/10/2022, William Dunn, Male, 83 years old
- 3/28/2022, Ellie Robinson, Male, 63 years old
- 4/20/2022, Lloyd Ingram, Male, 58 years old
- 5/20/2022, Eileen Garnett, Female, 83 years old
- 5/22/2022, Daniela Bonilla Betancourt, Female, 18 years old
- 6/7/2022, Name Not Released, Female, <18 years old
- 6/7/2022, Name Not Released, Female, <18 years old
- 7/5/2022, Name Not Released, Male
- 7/6/2022, Doris Anita McPhail, Female, 56 years old
- 7/8/2022, Keith Thomas, Male, 24 years old
- 8/18/2022, Albert Sweat, Male, 62 years old
- 8/24/2022, Chris Baidoe, Male, 26 years old
- 10/2/2022, Dalchoon Park, Female, 74 years old
- 10/6/2022, Melidie Kien, Female, 53 years old
- 10/9/2022, Ligia Jeanette Herrera Betbeder, Female, 63 years old
- 10/19/2022, Helen Bahta Oukubazghi, Female, 52 years old
- 10/26/2022, Elise Ballard, Female, 40 years old
- 11/16/2022, Lesly Diaz-Bonilla, Female, 17 years old

<https://novasafeststreets.org/world-day-of-remembrance-2022/#2022Fatalities>

World Day of Remembrance

FROM PAGE 7

struction site near the Wiehle-Reston Metro station in Reston because construction fences block sidewalk access. The hassle and extra time discourages people from walking down to another crosswalk and back again to get to and from the station. “I think someone will get hit, but nothing has been done about it,” Wright said.

Another priority for Wright is completing the path on the north side at the newly opened Reston Station on Sunrise Valley Drive and providing a means for passengers to cross at the Dulles exit. “That’s one big one,” Wright said.

The Herndon Parkway Cycle Track connects the Washington and Old Dominion Trail, the Herndon Metrorail Station, and the Herndon Transit-Oriented Core. “It is kind of a mess,” Wright said. “There are plans for the cycle track, but it’s going to be a long time before it is completed.”

According to William Ashton, town manager of the Town of Herndon, three projects near the Herndon Metro Station are in varying stages of completion. The first one, a bicycle path, goes to Worldgate. “That could be in the next couple of months,” he said.

Two independent Van Buren Street constructions are underway one block from the Herndon Metro Station. “We have the intersection of Van Buren with Herndon Parkway and then what we call the Complete Streets



FCSB representative Stella Pekarsky (Sully) speaks as FCSB representative Karl Frisch (Providence) listens at a day of remembrance organized by Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets. <https://novasafeststreets.org/>.

Project, which is Van Buren from the intersection back to Spring Street. The road has been milled, but to install pavement, daytime temperatures must be in the mid-to-upper-40s. The road will be striped a few weeks after it is completed,” Ashton said.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Mike Doyle, founder of Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets

Then there will be dedicated bike lanes. The sidewalks are finished except for the Van Buren and Herndon Parkway junction, one block from Herndon Station. “My goal was to have it completed when the station opened, but we couldn’t get it done,” Ashton said.

NOVA Families for Safe Streets said the purpose of the Day of Remembrance was to



Mike Doyle speaking. The candles represent the 21 pedestrian crash fatalities in Fairfax County, while the white roses are for those whose loved ones died in crashes.

“call attention to the issue of traffic fatalities and serious injuries on pedestrians and other vulnerable road users; elevate the voices of those who have been most impacted by traffic crashes; advocate for traffic regulations that will promote safer streets on our roads, and promote the Vision Zero goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries in all three Northern Virginia jurisdictions of Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

With the sidewalk blocked, pedestrians chose to walk in the street along Wiehle Avenue, a couple of blocks from the Silver Line Wiehle-Reston Station.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A pedestrian walks in the street despite the direction signs.

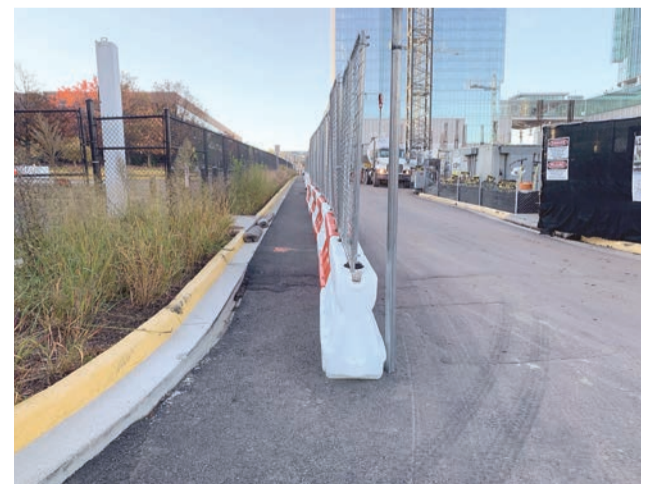


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pedestrian challenges near the Wiehle Reston Metro Station

CALENDAR

ONGOING

Town of Vienna Holiday Decorating Contest. Ring in the holiday season by participating in the 2022 Town of Vienna Holiday Decorating Contest. This year's theme is "Shine Bright, Vienna!" As in past years, the contest is open to residents and businesses located in the Town of Vienna who are encouraged to create a festive, holiday display that will draw visitors to the town. Displays will be judged by the Town Business Liaison Committee (TBLC) judging panel and voted on by community members. The TBLC judging panel will select business winners on Dec. 8. Community members will also have an opportunity to vote online for the resident and business "People's Choice Award" through Dec. 9 at 12 p.m., and winners will be announced at the regular Town Council meeting at Town Hall on Dec. 9 beginning at 8 p.m., and via social media and the Town website.



"The Rainmaker" will appear at 1st Stage in Tysons through Dec. 11, 2022.

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 La-Wan 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: Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

including Thomas and some of his friends on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young-at-heart. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See www.nvmr.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 29

Dirty Dancing in Concert. At Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. Enjoy the digitally remastered hit film like never before on a full-size cinema screen, with a live band and singers performing the film's iconic songs. With a soundtrack that marked a generation, Dirty Dancing in Concert promises to bring a thrilling new and unique experience to the 80s classic. Directly following the film, the band and singers will throw an encore party that will surely take you back to the time of your life as you sing and dance along to your favorite Dirty Dancing songs.

DEC. 1-4

Tysons Library Book & Media Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Hours: Thursday, 1 December, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, 2 December, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 3 December, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 4 December, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Email: tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com. Call: 703-338-3307.

DEC. 1

Toys for Tots Happy Hour. 4:30-6:30 p.m. At Brightview Great Falls, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. They will serve festive cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of sweet treats. Send an email to Jenn Burns (jburns2@bvsl.net) or Kathy Wagner (kwagner@bvsl.net) to RSVP.

DEC. 2-3

Langley High Feaste. 7 p.m. At Langley High School, McLean. With the approach of the holidays, students at Langley High School are preparing for a time-honored tradition of their holiday Feaste, a festive evening that transports the audience back to Merrie Olde England for Renaissance-style dining and musical entertainment. Guests will encounter a transformed Langley

Halle awash with twinkling lights, long, communal dinner tables and a sparkling, holiday-trimmed stage. Students, outfitted with medieval costumes and masks take on the roles of jesters, musicians and singers, featuring the Merrie Madrigals, Chamber Choir and Bards from the Concert, Treble and Select Choirs.

DEC. 2-4

Holiday Book Sale. At Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germaine Drive, Centreville. Fiction for all ages (many new titles!), Variety of Non-fiction, DVDs, and Holiday Audio CDs Shop for holiday gifts and support the Library. Friday, Dec. 2 from 1-5 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1-4 p.m. The bag sale will take place on Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Clifton Art Show. 2-7 p.m. At Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Artists offer their works in Fine Art Painting, Jewelry, Sculpture, Photography, Matted Giclee Prints, and Holiday Cards. With Clifton Homes tour 4-7 pm (admission) and a Horse Parade at 2 p.m. Visit the website: artguildofclifton.org

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

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village in Reston from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. The market will continue until December. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

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/>

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>.

SUNDAY/NOV. 27

Celtic Music. 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring the Irish Inn Mates. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com - \$21 general admission.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

NVMR Train Station Open House. 6-9 p.m. At Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Stop by the Historic Vienna Train Station where you can see and hear HO scale model trolleys and trains

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CAPPIES

'The Play that Goes Wrong.'

FROM PAGE 4

bly go wrong does. So Westfield's production is about this play with-in its own play, and all the actors portray other actors, as well as the characters they're playing in the murder mystery.

"People will be laughing from start to finish," said Director Enza Giannone-Hosig. "There's never a dull moment. I chose this play because this group of young people really enjoys and excels at comedy, so I wanted something fun for them."

The show itself, she said, is extremely technically challenging because of all the special effects that have to happen. For example, pictures fall off walls and there are some sword fighting mishaps.

"But we're ready for it, and the students are rising to the challenge," said Giannone-Hosig. "This play showcases their abilities to do that - highlighting the skills of our actors and technicians. It also reminds us that theater artists will put their hearts and souls into making sure the show goes on, the audience is entertained, and people get their money's worth. Their passion for theater keeps them going, no matter what."

Senior Elias Collier portrays Jonathan, who always wanted to be an actor and, hopefully, make some money. He's engaged to Joe, but their friends think they got serious way too soon, since they only recently met. "Jonathan's outgoing and easy to get along with, but quickly gets overwhelmed and anxious when things go wrong," explained Collier. "In the mystery, I play Charles Haversham, who dies in the first act."

Enjoying his role, he said, "All these characters are blank slates, but we all came together to give each one a back story, so we'd know how they'd interact with each other. The things that go wrong with Jonathan are physical, and I like getting thrown around. And though we're American actors, we have to speak in British accents for the murder mystery."

Collier said the actors will make the audience realize that the cast members of the mystery can act well and that the things going wrong in their play are out of their control. "It's a very funny show, and the humor will appeal to all groups," he said. "There's some

SEE CAPPIES, PAGE 11

CAPPIES



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

TJ Craypoff and Caitlyn An swordfighting.

‘Laughing from Start to Finish’

FROM PAGE 10

thing for everyone.”

Playing actor Rachel is sophomore Caitlyn An. “Rachel has a big ego and wants to be the one in charge; and even if something messes up, she pretends like everything is fine,” said An. “And when her fellow cast members accidentally make a mistake, you can see by her words, actions and facial expressions how she feels about it.”

This is An’s first lead role so, she said, “There’s a lot of memorization and time on-stage. It can get exhausting, at times, but I know that, in the end, it’s going to be rewarding. So I think of that when I want to push myself further. Rachel’s the opposite of me; she’s very confident and thinks highly of herself, but I doubt myself a lot – so getting this role made me feel more self-assured.”

Noting that last year’s Westfield shows were dark and serious, An said this year’s offerings are happy and funny. “Everyone loves humor, and this play shows another vibe of what Westfield is capable of doing,” she said. “This is the first show where we get to do some improv, which is also different from our other shows. And it keeps drawing in the audience because they’re eager to see what’ll go wrong next.”

Junior TJ Craypoff portrays Max. “He’s the definition of an attention hog,” said Craypoff. “He really loves audience interaction. If they’re looking at him and laughing at what he does, he’s happy. He’s also one of the newer and nicest cast members. He’s friendly to everyone, charming and a little naive.”

Craypoff likes playing this character because he usually portrays more serious ones. “But Max is more open, and I can create his onstage personality,” he said. “So there’s a lot I can do with him.”

He said the audience will like this play; it’s different. “Most times, when you go to a show, you sit and watch what’s happening onstage. But in this show, we continually interact with the audience, asking people, for example, ‘Can you fix this?’ or ‘Where can we find that thing we lost?’ and it leads to funny dialogue. It’s really a blast getting to perform this show.”

Senior Emily Miller is the production’s costume designer, heading a team of two other students, Natalie Kattas and Ameerah Byfield, plus some parents. The majority of the costumes are either handmade or embellished. There are also both modern-day costumes, as well as period ones worn in the 1920s-era murder mystery.

Some of the “made from scratch” costumes for the mystery, said Miller, include a lacy red Flapper-inspired dress; a blue riding coat for an equestrian; and a purple-velvet suit coat for Charles Havesham. Furthermore, certain characters in the mystery have connections to each other, and Miller underscores their ties by dressing them in similar colors.

“For example, two characters are having an affair with each other,” she said. “The woman in the red dress is involved with Max, so he wears a gray suit with red accents.”

Miller loves designing costumes and hopes to someday do it professionally. “I get to show my creative side and make something tangible,” she explained. “It’s useful art with a purpose. Costumes tell a story and can be used again in the future for a different show. Even our stage manager and sound-and-lights person for the mystery wear costumes inspired by Westfield alumni who performed those roles in the past. It means a lot to honor them this way because we’re a family here.”

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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.

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Weight For It, Wait ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in almost my entire six-decades plus of eating, I heard something from a doctor (my oncologist) that I had never heard before: “Kenny, you need to gain some weight.”

The first reaction I had was to recall (in my mind) Robert Di Niro’s famous “You talking to me?” bit from the movie “Taxi Driver.” But since I was the only cancer patient sitting in the examining room and the oncologist was speaking directly to me from approximately three feet away, it was me. I just couldn’t believe, process even, these never-before-heard words.

These words were directed at me for good reason. I’m not even fitting into my older brother’s hand-me-down jeans anymore, almost all of which were too tight. Now, these jeans are all too big. In addition, my belt hangs around my waist as it no longer has enough holes to make for a tight fit anymore. And when I had to wear a suit last week to attend a funeral, it was very nearly tent city. To say I was swimming conjures water. Let me assure you, there was no water where I was swimming. I was on dry land and standing helplessly in front of a mirror reflecting on my appearance. Ultimately, I did find something to wear. However, the problem was; I was the one wearing it, not the Kenny from last year.

This juxtaposition from my normal overweight to this very uncharacteristic underweight was not exactly my intention. It’s more a combination of teeth issues and the dry-mouth side effect of my thyroid cancer medication. Though I’m not exactly a shell of my former self, I am nonetheless, svelte, you might say? And why might I be svelte? Because I’ve never heard the word used to describe me before so I’m not sure it applies. But to quote Popeye, that famous sailor: “I y’am what I y’am.” I just hope that my future weight gain doesn’t involve eating spinach out of a can. Early suggestions from the peanut gallery suggest otherwise: to include drinking multiple cans of boost per day, eating Ben & Jerry’s ice cream at will, without caring which one is will, and eating more than a bagel and cream cheese for breakfast/lunch every day.

This need to eat – for my health, is the complete and total reversal of my lifelong relationship with food. Generally speaking, I am not a “healthy” eater. I’m more a carbohydrate kind of person who prefers cake, cookies, and ice cream. Vegetables, fresh fruit, fish and the like were never much on my dietary radar. If they ever were, I’d try and jam the signal so I wouldn’t be embarrassed by my refusal to even try anything different. Eating has always been the bane of my existence. I’m a meat and potatoes chocoholic who doesn’t eat well in front of others. A dinner invitation to eat a meal at somebody’s home is fraught with anxiety for me. Invariably, there will be food I won’t eat. As such, I’ll try to sit next to my wife at the far end of the table away from the hosts so I can sneak food I don’t eat onto her plate. Since she’s a good eater, possibly what I discard onto her plate won’t be left in limbo.

This self-assessment comes from a former adolescent who spent countless hours in the Husky Department in Filenes, Jordon Marsh, Kennedy’s, and Raleigh’s in downtown Boston trying to find “school clothes.” As a result, I’ve stood over so many piles of clothes in dressing rooms which didn’t fit and/or had to try on and then walk a kind of shame onto the floor where my mother was anxiously waiting to see if what I had tried on, even fit and if it did, would it meet with her approval. Twice a year, I endured this shopping hell; fall and winter, spring and summer. I remain partially traumatized to this day. Not to mention all the “fat”-type nicknames my brother had for me: “Fatso,” “Blimp,” “Endicott Chubb,” and “Corpulent,” to name a few. But since he was my biggest booster, it never really bothered me. Still, I was never ever told I needed to eat. Far from it. I ate plenty, just the wrong stuff. Yet, in 2022, that’s what I’m being told. Eat anything I want; whatever it takes to gain weight.

You might as well try to turn an ocean liner around after it’s headed out to sea. It hardly turns on a dime, and as far as my eating habits/tendencies, et cetera, neither do I.

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

Centreville Tops Westfield to Advance in Playoffs

The #3 seeded Westfield Bulldogs travelled to Clifton for a 2nd round playoff game with the #2 seed Centreville Wildcats. Westfield advanced after defeating the Herndon Hornets 31-28 on Sept. 12. Centreville advanced after defeating Chantilly 54-37.

Centreville running back Isaiah Ragland scored 4 touchdowns rushing in the game. The first touchdown came with 4:47 to play in the opening quarter.

With 9:29 in the 2nd quarter Ragland would rush in from 12 yards out. Later in the quarter Ragland would score his third of the half and put Centreville up 21-0.

With :31 seconds to play before halftime Westfield wide receiver Connor Morin gave Westfield their only score of the game. After a botched snap the score remained at 21-6. After a scoreless 3rd quarter Javan Denny pulled in a 29 yard touchdown reception with 10:38 to play in the game. Isaiah Ragland would score his 4th touchdown on a 9 yard run with 5:33 to play in the game.

Centreville (10-2) advances to play #1 seeded James Madison Warhawks next Saturday, Nov. 26 at James Madison High School in Vienna at 1pm. James Madison advanced after defeating Yorktown 21-7.



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

The Centreville Wildcats and Westfield Bulldogs meet at midfield and watch as referee flips coin.



Isaiah Ragland #20 runs in for his fourth touchdown.



Isaiah Ragland #20 and Elaijah Coffield #13 both seem to have a hold on one another's facemasks.



Westfield's Connor Morin #5 is stopped just short of the goal line on 4th down.



Isaiah Ragland #20 runs in for the first of his four touchdowns in a second round playoff game between Westfield and Centreville.