

# THE CONNECTION

CENTREVIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

## Honoring Veterans

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The Reston Chorale and the Herndon High School Naval Junior ROTC Color Guard On Veterans Day at the Town of Herndon's Chestnut Grove Cemetery.



## Helping to Feed Hungry Families

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## Celebrating Route 28 Expansion

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NOVEMBER 15-21, 2023

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Dave Womach, Post Commander, Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army (Ret)



Early evening on Veterans Day 2023, a young boy mirrors a veteran's salute as Taps sound at the graveside ceremony for Sgt. Wayne M. Kidwell of Herndon. Kidwell died at age 19 on March 8, 1968, of hostile small-arms fire in the Battle of Ap Dong Lam in the Thua Thien Province of South Vietnam.



Clayton Smith, 15, and Tyler Dooley, 14, of Scouts BSA Troop 1570B Herndon, Va., Powhatan District, National Capital Area Council, learn how to fold a casket flag. It is something the Scouts will remember for a lifetime.

## Veterans Day 2023

Coming together “to honor generations of women and men who have served and sacrificed.”

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

In the Town of Herndon, members of the Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184 members started their day's observance at dawn. They raised 65 casket flags in an Avenue of Flags at Herndon's Chestnut Grove Cemetery to honor fallen veterans. At 11 that morning, the Post held a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on the Town Green in the rear of the Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon.

The granite memorial stands 10 feet tall and weighs 5,000 pounds. The monument is a half-size replica of the obelisk at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Virginia, built in honor of the town's namesake, Capt. William Lewis Herndon.

Dave Womach, Post Commander, Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army (Ret), welcomed members of the Herndon Town Council, residents, and others. Womach said that as he moves about the local community, he continues to run into veterans “doing great stuff.” While he usually doesn't like to name veterans who continue to serve the community for fear of forgetting someone, Womach wanted to mention one veteran this time. He was to be the day's speaker, but he was at home and sick, unable to come.

“Matt Lang is a veteran of the Marine Corps and Navy Reserves. Lang became a deputy sheriff in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, answering the call daily for many years,” said Womach. He told how Lang has run for office repeatedly and wanted to represent his local community in Richmond and continue to serve it.”

Lang ran for Virginia Senate against Jennifer Boysko.

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Veterans of the Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184 Herndon-Reston

“The outcome was different than he wanted this time around. But Matt's call to serve still burns bright,” Womach said. Lang transferred his membership to Post 184, joining veterans like Lang who continue to “answer the call.” According to Womach, Post 184 chooses activities to support based on what they can do and what has a high impact for good in the community.

Stuart and Madeleine Gibson, recent transplants to Reston from Canada, talked with Mayor Sheila Olem of the Town of Herndon. The Gibsons were looking for a Veterans Day observance and found the one in Herndon.

Womach listed a few examples of what Post 184 has done in the Town of Herndon and surrounding communities, beginning with collecting American flags for proper retirement. In addition to receiving a couple of calls weekly, the Post's main collection box is outside Moose Lodge on Center Street. “That dropbox is generally filled every month. And usually, about twice a year, we retire them,” said Womach.

Post 184's charter Scout Troop 1570 helped coordinate efforts to incinerate retired flags properly with the assistance of Covanta.

Post 184 also conducts Memorial and

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Opening remarks by Sheila Olem, mayor of the Town of Herndon

Veterans Day ceremonies at a nearby senior facility that brings out 35–40 residents and their families.

Womach's final example of how Post 184 supports the community based on what they can do and what has a high impact for good was the Avenue of Flags.

“Post 184 has been given over the years 65 American flags that at one point rested on the caskets of veterans. Twice a year, on Memorial Day and today on Veterans Day, we raise those flags, weather permitting. At 4 p.m., we will gather and fold up all the flags. That job of properly folding 65 American flags is a big one, but that's where you can help this afternoon,” said Womach.



# Joyful Ribbon Cutting on a Cold, Brisk Day

Route 28 widening in Centreville is nearly done.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

In September 2021, local dignitaries hoisted shovelfuls of dirt into the air to break ground for the Route 28 widening in Centreville. Held in the park-and-ride lot of Centreville United Methodist Church near this heavily traveled highway, the event marked the start of construction.

Some two years later, on Nov. 1, they gathered on the same spot – but this time, it was to cut the ribbon symbolizing the near completion of this project. And although a brisk wind plunged that morning's temperature to 36 degrees, and a few items remained to be finished, officials wanted to do it then because grateful drivers are already using the improved road.

"I want to thank all the men and women who physically worked out here – the contractors, the folks who made this important project happen – and did it safely," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay. "Whenever we make road-improvement projects like this in Fairfax County, we also focus on – not just moving traffic and people – but also the multimodal improvements for pedestrians and safety improvements for people who live along this corridor."

Because so many people regularly travel on Route 28 between Centreville and Manassas – and there were just two lanes in each direction – driving on it was always an exercise in patience. And during rush hour, traffic ground to a bumper-to-bumper crawl.

But area motorists may now rejoice because the road has been widened from four to six lanes between the bridge over Bull Run (south of Compton Road), at the Prince William County line, and the Route 29 Interchange in Centreville. Besides improving some 2.3 miles of Route 28, the nearly \$79 million project also added more lanes on the side streets to ease traffic flow.

To make the intersections function better, five existing traffic signals were upgraded, as well as bicycle and pedestrian crossings. The project created new 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths on both sides of Route 28 and stormwater-management facilities.

Other improvements included turn lanes, plus extra lanes on some side streets:

- \* Dual left-turn lanes on northbound Route 28 at New Braddock Road;

- \* Dual left-turn lanes on northbound Route 28 at Machen Road;

- \* Triple left turns from westbound New Braddock to southbound Route 28; and

- \* The addition of one lane on both westbound and eastbound Compton Road, eastbound Old Mill Road and westbound Old Centreville Road (at the north end of the project).

Noise-barrier walls are being erected at four points along the project corridor. Along Route 28 north, one will be north of Darkwood Drive and one will be north of Compton Road. Along Route 28 south, one will be north of Green Trails Drive and one will be north of Ordway Road.



The ribbon cutting for the completion of the Route 28 widening project in Centreville.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Monica Backmon



Jeff McKay



Kathy Smith



Pat Herry



Terry Yates

To get all the work done as quickly as possible, a design-build process was employed. That way, the design, right-of-way, utility and construction phases were able to be carried out concurrently. And while this project only had enough funding to widen Route 28 to six lanes now, both its design and land acquisition were done to accommodate eight lanes in the future.

This Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) project was accomplished in cooperation with VDOT and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). Shirley Contracting Co. was the design/build contractor.

Financing came from a variety of sources. The NVTA invested \$26 million, and another \$23.4 million came from VDOT via Virginia Smart Scale funds. Local government funds accounted for \$10.4 million; VDOT Revenue Sharing funds, \$10 million; and federal Demonstration funds, more than \$9.6 million.

Listing the road's many, new features, McKay noted that this project also improved intersection safety; removed selected, unsignalized, median crossovers and breaks; improved pedestrian and bicycle connections at crossings; and included a new shared-use path on each side of Route 28.

He also expressed his appreciation for all the county's partners on it, as well as the General Assembly members who support the NVTA. "On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, we're happy this project is finished to improve the lives of our residents," said McKay.

"We know that every moment spent in crushing gridlock is one moment spent not at your kid's soccer game or school, at home having dinner with your family, or a minute making you late to work or for a doctor's appointment – all the things that are part of our quality of life here," he continued. "Clearly, this project is already [making life better for people] and will continue to do that for a long, long time."

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) welcomed attendees "to this momentous occasion," saying the new lanes will ensure "a more seamless and efficient transportation experience for our residents." She also called the community's anticipation of more lanes on Route 28 "palpable."

"The residents were eagerly looking forward to all the improvements in transportation and accessibility this project promised to bring," she said. "With improved transportation options and notable noise-reduction efforts, we're dedicated to ensuring a

more tranquil and convenient living environment for all."

Next, Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) also thanked all the construction partners and praised the design-build process, plus the "innovative design" enabling Route 28 to someday expand to eight lanes, if necessary.

"While this project's not in the Springfield District – which is actually right across the street – much of the benefits from it will be felt within that district, as we start alleviating all the cut-through traffic in the Occoquan Watershed and through the Town of Clifton," he said. "Those are the people who really should be using this route, but it's been too congested. This project's the first step in remedying that."

Speaking, as well, was Terry Yates, VDOT's Northern Virginia District local assistance manager. "Not only was this one of the first Smart Scale projects in the state, it was also one of the first design-build projects," he said. "So when your locality, department of transportation, and all of your citizens and partners can come together and deliver a design-build project as complicated as this, that's saying something. We appreciate all the work and partnerships we have, and NVTA, which helps provide us funding to deliver these types of projects."

NVTA CEO Monica Backmon gave the closing remarks. "Two short years ago, we were here breaking ground on this project; and two years later, we're here to celebrate the cutting of the ribbon," she said. "This is a huge, huge project and one of regional significance. It also means an awful lot to the Authority, and five NVTA members are here today to attest to that."

"This project will reduce congestion and improve regional connectivity plus multimodal access for various transportation options. That's what we do at NVTA and I'm proud to be here. Thank you very much – and great job!"



# Veterans Day 2023

## Observance at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**B**ruce Fein, Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army Reserves, is a native of Great Falls and a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (1994). In his remarks during the Veterans Day 2023 Observance at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, he said, "The willingness with which young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars are treated and appreciated by their nation," Fein said. "I believe America is worth standing for and I thank all of you for standing with me and all veterans."

Fein served in Baghdad, Iraq, as a U.S. Army Ranger, Airborne, Air Assault Qualified (2003-2004) and received the Bronze Star Medal. He graduated with honors from the University of Chicago in 1996 with a Political Science degree and the University of Chicago Law School Juris Doctor (1999).

On Saturday morning, Nov. 11, residents and friends of the Great Falls community gathered at the Freedom Memorial behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike to join in the observance to honor all veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Event organizers invited Fein to be the guest speaker.

According to Fein, Andy Wilson, president of the Friends of the Freedom Memorial and a retired Army Ranger officer, asked Fein to speak at the Veterans Day Observance because Wilson probably did not know many youth from Great Falls who grew up in the community, joined the service, and became veterans. Fein said that he often asks himself why he joined and has well-rehearsed answers.

"[First], I thought I could use the discipline. The second was curiosity and a thirst for adventure. ... I knew that taking a bridge after heavy fighting must require a lot of bravery and personal courage, and I wanted to put myself to the test. See if I measured up," said Fein. "The third reason was that I wanted to contribute to my country in a totally different way from the desk job I knew I was likely to have over the course of my professional career."

Fein described being surrounded by people in the military while growing up in Great Falls but acknowledged that at the time, he didn't understand they were setting examples for him and others. "I'm very grateful to them," Fein said.

While Fein did not want to go to war, he never expected to do so or to fight but just expected to "be ready in case it was necessary."

"George Washington said that the best way to keep the peace is to be prepared for war, and that made pretty good sense to me," Fein said. At the time, his greatest aspiration was to go to Airborne School and jump out of planes. "I had no notion of going

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PHOTO COURTESY OF EARL MATTHEWS

**Guest speaker Bruce Fein, Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army Reserves, at the Veterans Day Observance at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial on Saturday, November 11, 2023.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF EARL MATTHEWS

**Guest speaker Bruce Fein, Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army Reserves, is joined by his son, Christopher Fein, and Colonel Earl Matthews of the U.S. Army Reserves following his remarks at the Veterans Day Observance held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023.**

to war, as I would very soon after graduating from officer basic."

According to Fein, when he reflected on his three reasons, he realized another unstated but more significant explanation overwhelmed all the others.

"Our military exists to protect our country, and our country is precious and good, right, and worth keeping," Fein said. He explained that bravery and courage are virtues only when invested in a good cause, citing that the Japanese who bombarded Pearl Harbor were no doubt courageous and that the Germans who killed his second cousin in the Battle of Bulge were no doubt very courageous. "But I'm glad that they lost and we won because their cause was not a good one or just one, and ours was."

Fein said that he felt fortunate to have been born into the time and place of the United States, currently "the land of the free where we enjoy free rein to pursue our noblest aspiration, no matter where or how we started. I don't think we would be here at this ceremony otherwise."

"I thank you for standing with me in protecting and celebrating the historically unique treasure we have in the United States," Fein said.

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# COMMUNITY

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From left, Westfield High senior Connor Hogan and Chantilly High senior Eric Stone bringing boxes of food to the sorting tables. On Saturday, Nov. 4, Boy Scouts in the Sully District collected 50,416 pounds of food for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry in Chantilly.



Kayleigh Merritt of Centreville Presbyterian Church and Jojo Miller, 5, are sorting dried pasta together.



Diane and Don Dumas, of Centreville Presbyterian Church, packing up canned fruit.

## Residents, Scouts Fill WFCM'S Food Pantry

**O**n Saturday, Nov. 4, Boy Scouts in the Sully District collected 50,416 pounds of food for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry in Chantilly. The annual Scouting for Food drive was "wonderful and abundant as always, due to the great work of the Scouts in coordinating this drive," said WFCM Executive Director Harmonie Taddeo.

"We're so thankful to the Sully District Boy Scouts and their lead coordinator Michael Adere, the Sully community members who donated food and other necessities, and the many volunteers who helped deliver, stock and sort the food and toiletry items."

Taddeo said the community's contributions will ensure that families needing to use WFCM's client-choice food pantries in both

Centreville and Chantilly will be able to select from a variety of canned goods, baking items, snacks and toiletries, in addition to the fresh food WFCM buys and receives from grocery stores.

In addition, two Scout units sponsored by St. Timothy Catholic Church in Chantilly took the food they gathered directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Timothy. Since they collected 6,502 pounds, the total amount of food Sully District Scouts collected overall was 56,918 pounds. "It was another great year for this event," said Adere. "And it's a true testament to the generous giving from the people throughout our communities — especially in Centreville, Chantilly and Clifton."

— BONNIE HOBBS



Karen Shumway, leader of Girl Scout Troop 3327 of Herndon, sorts pasta sauce with troop member Olive Barton, 10.



Packing canned goods are Mona Barton with son Alex, 5, and Girl Scout Zoë Roberts, 8, of Troop 3327.



Centreville High junior Michael Arimura helps unload a heavy box of food from a car.



Working together are (from left) twins Madhavan and Meena Kandagatla, Chantilly High sophomores; Sowjanya Pulipati of Chantilly; Landon Park of Boy Scout Troop 44; and Centreville's Brandice Roberts of Girl Scout Troop 3327.



From left, Centreville High freshman Cameron Feldman, of Boy Scout Troop 44, and Chantilly High grad Alexander Alvarez of Boy Scout Troop 1995 unloading boxes of food.



# Smith Reelected as Sully Supervisor

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

In last week's election for Sully District supervisor, Democratic incumbent Kathy Smith beat Republican challenger Keith Elliott. She received 20,238 votes, for 59.5 percent of the total, to his 13,643 votes and 40 percent. There were also 152 write-ins, comprising 0.45 percent of the votes.

"I was pleased that the voters of the Sully District are entrusting me to another term on the Board of Supervisors," said Smith afterward. "I will continue to work with the community on the issues that face the Sully District and Fairfax County. I will continue to prioritize affordable housing and pedestrian safety over the next four years."

As for Elliott, although he'd hoped for a different outcome, he said he really tried hard and did the best he could, despite having to wage an uphill battle against a well-known, longtime incumbent.

"My campaign lost by fewer votes than any other Board of Supervisors race, spent far less than any other and had a no-name, first-time candidate, when others had run or been involved before," he explained.

One of the campaign issues – especially for residents in the Stonecroft, Bull Run and Virginia Run precincts, all of which Smith lost – was the gigantic data center that's proposed for construction just a half mile from Chantilly's



Kathy Smith

Pleasant Valley community. Smith wouldn't openly take a position on this hot-button topic, noting instead how much money the data center would bring to the county in tax revenue.

The residents most affected by its potential dangers said she wasn't taking their environmental, health and noise concerns about it seriously, and Elliott was staunchly on their side. In addition, although the matter was due to go to the Board of Supervisors in October, it was deferred until after the election.

Ultimately, Smith's support in the rest of the Sully District was enough for her to easily win reelection. As for Elliott, on Election Day, he visited each precinct and thanked all the volunteers, including those representing the Democrats. "I'm proud of how I handled the campaign and helped bring to light the issues on the data center," he said. "I plan to stay involved in the fight."

# Wrapping Up Matters in 2023, or Not

Supervisors to take action on two controversial items, a data center in Chantilly and Dark Skies in Great Falls.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

As the year comes to a close, the Board of Supervisors has yet to hear two contentious issues for which the Fairfax County Planning Commission recommended approval. One will not be heard in 2023, and the other will. Two more meetings of the full Fairfax County Board of Supervi-

sors are scheduled, one next week on Tuesday, Nov. 21, and the other on Dec. 5.

"The Data Center voting/public hearing has been deferred by the BOS to Jan. 23 at 4 p.m.," confirmed Frances Best, Communications Director for Chairman Jeff McKay Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

SEE WRAPPING UP, PAGE 11

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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
GRAYSON	8797	603	FAIRWOOD RD.	BIG FOX CREEK	10/26/2023
BUCHANAN	29763	2175	DOOLEY RD.	STREAM	10/26/2023
SCOTT	16776	654	CLIFF MTN. WAY	DRY CREEK	10/25/2023
WASHINGTON	18838	11	LEE HIGHWAY	HALL CREEK	10/24/2023
BEDFORD	2730	639	HURRICANE DR/RT 639	BRANCH OF OSLIN CREEK	10/23/2023
ROANOKE	14809	0F880	BRETHERN RD/RT F880	BRANCH OF BACK CREEK	10/23/2023
FAUQUIER	7359	681	HOLTZCLAW RD.	STREAM	10/17/2023
HIGHLAND	10327	640	BLUGRASS VALLEY RD (RT 640)	S BR POTOMAC RIVER	10/16/2023
ROCKBRIDGE	15547	646	BIG HILL RD (RT 646)	COLLIERS CREEK	10/12/2023
BEDFORD	2823	695	GOOSE CK VLY RT 695	N. FORK GOOSE CREEK	10/5/2023
LOUDOUN	11147	600	NEW RD.	BULL RUN	10/2/2023

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.*

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Hermy was a misfit, so was Rudolph. They were two of a kind, so these new friends set off to see what they could find.





## Great Falls Rugby Tournament Nov. 19

Great Falls will be a busy place on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. On Nov. 19, Great Falls Youth Rugby is hosting its ninth annual tournament to benefit the spinal cord injury research and recovery programs at MedStar National Rehabilitation Network. The President of Great Falls Rugby is himself a spinal cord injury survivor and wants to give back to the Adaptive Sport Program.

The tournament, moved to the Nike Fields at Forestville due to its expansion, will host 16 Clubs, 37 Teams and over 50 games. A number of top D.C., Maryland and Virginia youth, middle school and high school teams are registered. Games begin at 9 a.m. and run all day, with coed middle school and high school boys and girls tackle teams playing at both Nike 7 and 8. The younger “tag” rugby match-

es will be played on the LaCrosse Nike 4 field.

Great Falls Youth Rugby is grateful for the continued support of the community, including sponsors Cuisine Solutions, Indigo IT, Nando’s Restaurants and Kiwi pies. Most of the proceeds from all participating teams and vendors will be donated to MedStar’s Adaptive Sports Programs.

Great Falls Rugby, founded in 2011, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Registration and playing opportunities exist year round and the Eagles are always looking for opportunities to promote the club throughout the Herndon, Great Falls, Reston, McLean and Sterling areas. For more information, including for the MedStar Tournament, visit [www.greatfallsrugby.com](http://www.greatfallsrugby.com) or email Gary Czotzee at [gary@greatfallsrugby.com](mailto:gary@greatfallsrugby.com).



## Girls on the Run of NOVA 5K Celebrations In November

Girls on the Run of NOVA (GOTR NOVA) is excited to announce two 5K events on Nov. 18 in Sterling and Nov.19 in Arlington. The 5K in Sterling will be held at Dulles Town Center and will start at 8 a.m. The 5K in Arlington will be held at Grace Murray Hopper Park and will start at 8:30 a.m.

Girls on the Run NOVA holds the largest youth 5K in the area with over 1,400 kids expected to participate this November. These celebrations are the culminating events for Girls on the Run participants and Coaches who have spent the 10-week season completing the research-based curriculum, which integrates physical

activity to help increase confidence, create positive connections with peers and coaches, and help students connect with their communities. The 5K provides a tangible sense of accomplishment and demonstrates that with hard work and dedication, you can achieve your goals.

All walkers and runners from the community are invited to join the fun by registering at [www.gotrnova.org/5k](http://www.gotrnova.org/5k). Registration is \$45 through November 17th and will increase to \$50 on November 18th.

Register to participate or volunteer at [www.gotrnova.org/5K](http://www.gotrnova.org/5K).

## Inaugural ‘Let Me Run’ 5K in Great Falls

It was an inspiring Saturday morning Nov. 4 as Great Falls Elementary hosted the inaugural “Let Me Run” Elementary 5K Race. The hometown event gathered students, dedicated PTA members, neighbors and enthusiastic parents to celebrate the health, fitness, and bright future of elementary school boys and the spirit of community.

The “Let Me Run” Elementary 5K Race is a testament to the power of determination, camaraderie, and the joy of physical activity. “Let Me Run” is a national running program for elementary school boys. After many requests by parents for a boys’ running program that was similar to Girls on the Run, the Great Falls Elementary PTA searched for a program which led them to find “Let Me Run.” Running not only develops happier and healthier children but it can teach self discipline, confidence, perseverance, and brotherhood. Great Falls Elementary is the first school of hopefully many in Fairfax County to implement the program.

Thirty young athletes took part in the “Let Me Run” program, with their beaming faces and infectious enthusiasm setting the tone for the entire event. Community members, parents, and volunteers lent their support.

“The ‘Let Me Run’ 5K Race is about more than just running. It’s about building a sense of accomplishment and instilling a love for a healthy, active lifestyle in our young students,” said Kelly Singer, the head coach at Great Falls Elementary.

The participants were cheered on and joined by the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, parents, neighbors, and fellow students who lined the race route, waving signs and offering encouragement and wa-



PHOTO BY STEPHEN SCHURESKO

The Let Me Run boys team of Great Falls Elementary at the race.

ter. The finish line was under a colorful balloon arch made by local balloon artist Elle Dickerson and a sea of high-fives, hugs, and proud smiles as each child received a finisher medal.

In addition to the race itself, the event included a variety of post-race treats and beverages donated by local businesses.

“We are immensely proud of the students’ determination and dedication,” said Sara Harper, principal of Great Falls Elementary. “The ‘Let Me Run’ 5K Race is an incredible experience that not only promotes physical fitness but also fosters teamwork and self-confidence in our young learners.”

Great Falls Elementary PTA extends a special thank you to Brushstroke Properties, Great Falls Safeway, Costco, and Pat Premier DJ Services for their support.

Visit [www.letmerun.org](http://www.letmerun.org).



PHOTOS BY PATRICK KELLY

The first race finisher is Jaxon Palmer, 10 years old. His finishing time was 21:10.



# COMMUNITY

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The volunteer elves of The Closet's Annual Everything Christmas Sale are ready for the rush.

## 'Tis the Season

### The Closet's Annual Everything Christmas Sale.

The Closet of Greater Herndon opened the doors to its annual Everything Christmas Sale on Friday afternoon, Nov. 10. An hour earlier, people started lining up on the sidewalk at the special two-day sale site, the Herndon Moose Lodge 2274 on Center Street.

Organizers chose the Moose Lodge because of its cavernous second-floor space. It would be an understatement to say that shoppers discovered a massive amount of gently used Christmas, holiday and seasonal items offered at deeply discounted prices. For some, their thrift shopping would be aspirational or sustainable, but for others, their thrift shopping would be done out of necessity because new items would be too costly.

Whatever the reason, profits from The Closet's sales go to support local community service organizations and post-secondary education scholarships for students from local high schools. Items that The Closet cannot sell, whether returned to their store or offered at their booth at the Dec. 9 Herndon Wintermarket, are donated to needy communities in the western part of the state.

Lead Laura Greenspan of Reston told how The Closet collected the items between Dec. 22, 2022, and last week. On Sunday, teams of volunteers began to tackle the daunting task of unpacking not one but two storage units filled with the donated holiday decor. Throughout the year, volunteers meticulously sorted the items into over 600 bins. There were bins for stockings and stocking holders, candles, string lights, and lit decor. There were more bins for wreaths and garlands, nutcrackers, figurines, holiday dishware, mantle trees, and more. The oversized collection items, such as the tall faux trees and yesterday's classic steel runner sleds, would demand one-on-one carrying.

Undeterred by the enormity of the challenge, volunteers loaded and transported the items using two trucks. Youth crews diligently lent a helping hand

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Kimberly Harris and Nicole Janik of Ashburn are first in line, arriving one hour before the opening of The Closet's Annual Everything Christmas Sale

on Sunday and Monday, taking advantage of the no-school day to tackle unpacking the mountain of bins and organizing similar items on tables. Other volunteer teams diligently priced the items on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

"We've had many great volunteers, many from our official faith-based organizations, the community, and even some of our longtime shoppers, who have come to help. Athena is our best merchandiser; she's been here daily," Greenspan said. "And today, finally, we'll find out how it turns out."

The Closet of Greater Herndon Area, Inc. is a non-profit thrift shop in the heart of historic downtown Herndon located at 845 Station Street. The Closet is a faith-based volunteer-driven organization of 20 congregations, among them the First Baptist Church, Shorshim Jewish Community, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and St. John Neumann. "The Closet has become a favorite with a wide range of shoppers, from those needing essential clothing items and household goods at bargain prices to collectors and antique buffs who check The Closet's shelves for unusual books, plates, and collectibles at a fraction of retail prices. On shopping days, eager shoppers often begin lining up outside before the store opens," states the organization's website.

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## PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

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

**Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<http://bit.ly/3sr0juS>

**Meeting ID: 840 9128 9098**

**Passcode: 808423**

Reston Association members are encouraged to provide comments on the association's 2024 Capital and Operating budgets at this public hearing. View budget materials at Reston.org.

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# Wrapping Up Matters

FROM PAGE 7

The data center proposal was originally to get a public hearing before the County Board of Supervisors in October. The Fairfax County Planning Commission recommended approval of Penzance's zoning request with six votes in favor during a five-hour public meeting that began on Sept. 20 and went into the early hours of Sept. 21. Penzance applied to rezone a 12.1-acre plot off Lee Jackson Memorial Highway to allow for a 402,000-square-foot data center or a 150,000-square-foot warehouse. The rendering of the building shows a three-story data center.

Earlier this fall, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors delayed its previously anticipated Oct. 24 vote on the controversial matter of building and operating a data center on the south side of Route 50 in Chantilly. The plan was to hold the vote after the Nov. 7 general election and the new board is seated. The data center is proposed in Supervisor Kathy Smith's district, and is too close for comfort for local residents.

dark skies around an astronomical facility, received a vote of support from the Fairfax County Planning Commission at its Oct. 18 meeting. The commissioners recommended approval of regulations to preserve the night sky around Turner Farm Park Observatory in Great Falls. The proposed regulations would limit outdoor lighting on properties within one-half mile of the observatory, and according to the staff report, "in general, the proposed revisions allow for flexibility for outdoor lighting within one-half mile of the observatory while preserving dark skies." The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hear the matter on Tuesday, Nov. 21, with a public hearing scheduled at 3:30 p.m.

According to the agenda, on single-family lots within the one-half-mile area, fixtures that are exempt from certain other lighting regulations are limited to the following: motion-activated lighting fixtures of 1,500 lumens or less; lighting fixtures at an exterior door or garage of 1,500 lumens or less; and lighting fixtures with up to 20 lumens.

**DARK SKIES** An effort to preserve

SEE WRAPPING UP, PAGE 15

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## THREE FARMERS MARKETS REMAIN OPEN INTO DECEMBER

Enjoy the extended season at the Reston, Burke and McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon farmers markets. Starting Nov. 25, each market will welcome a handful of new vendors in addition to the ones you know and love. Expect new products, such as bagels, hot biscuits, pho, fresh cheese and more! The Extended Season will continue each week until market closing dates, which can be found below.

**Burke Farmers Market.** April 22 – Dec. 16, 8 a.m. to noon. VRE Parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke

**Reston Farmers Market.** April 29 – Dec. 2, 8 a.m. to noon. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

**McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market.** April 19 – Dec. 20, 8 a.m. to noon. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

## NOV. 9 TO DEC. 24

**Photo with Santa.** At Tysons Corner Center. Lower Level – Fashion Court/Nordstrom Wing. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. / Sun. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Tysons Corner Center's Santa Claus will arrive on November 9th, and be available for photos and personal time daily through December 24th.

## STARTING NOW

**Sip & Stroll.** At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Shopping with a Twist will be in effect daily during center hours (10 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon.-Sat. /11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sun.), although individual restaurant hours may vary. Adult beverages must be in a logo'd disposable cup provided by the restaurant where the drink was purchased. Only alcoholic beverages purchased from participating restaurants may be taken outside the restaurant and into the shopping center. No outside alcohol is permitted.

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## FUNDAY MONDAY

**"Funday Monday is open to children of all ages, however is best suited for the preschool set!** Funday Monday runs from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and — unless otherwise noted — is held at Fairfax Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There are plenty of free parking lots/garages in Old Town Fairfax. Stroller access is available at the side entrance Old Town Hall facing Route 236/Main Street. For more information visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts/](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts/)."

## SCHEDULE

Nov. 20 -- My Gym



"Peter and the Starcatcher" can be seen at Mount Vernon High School on Nov. 16-18, 2023.

Nov. 27 -- Drew Blue Shoes Magic  
Dec. 4 -- Music Together Sing and Groove  
Dec. 11 -- My Gym  
Dec. 18 -- TBD

## SATURDAYS THRU NOVEMBER

**Reston Museum.** See how Reston's founding principles were implemented by joining the upcoming walking tour. Tour will be held 10 a.m. every Saturday through November. Sign up at: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/event-details/guided-walking-tour-restons-founding-2023-09-09-10-00>

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Enjoy an evening of music showcasing a variety of genres in the elegant interior of historic Old Town Hall (3999 University Drive) in the heart of Fairfax City. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and performances begin at 8 p.m. and run from October to April. Admission is free. Visit: [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts).

### SCHEDULE

November 17: Graham Breedlove – Blues  
December 8: Marcolivia – Classical String Duo  
January 5: Baltimore Composers Forum – Modern  
January 19: Navy Band Wind Quintet – Classical  
February 2: Kadencia – Puerto Rican Orchestra (part of the Chocolate Lovers Festival!)  
February 16: Matt Trkula – Classical Guitar  
March 8: Mandoleers – Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra  
March 22: James & Victor – Jazz Duo/Steel Pan  
April 5: Francesca Hurst – Solo Piano  
April 19: Sylvan Waters Duo – Harp/Brass

## NOV. 3 TO FEB. 4

**Eleanor Mahin Thorp: Metopic Ridge.** At Tephra ICA at Signature. Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) presents Metopic Ridge, a solo exhibition by artist Eleanor Mahin Thorp. Thorp's paintings take us on an immersive site visit to examine the Blue Ridge Mountains exploring stability and change, the seen and the hidden within rocks. Through



"Much Ado About Nothing" can be seen at South County High School in Lorton from Nov. 16-18, 2023. Actors rehearsing from left to right: Caprice Aspland (Beatrice), Parker Bryant (Benedick), Aeryn Dahm (Hero), and Javier Quiroz (Claudio).

her discerning gaze rocks are more than geological entities; Instead, they metamorphose into vessels of history and human connection. Drawing inspiration from the fascinating transformations depicted in Persian miniatures, Thorp traces the hidden figures and forms in the rocks. Her paintings reveal the duality of rocks' existence as both a firm witness to time and a medium for that which is intangible.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 15

**Visiting Filmmakers Series.** 4:30 p.m. At GMU's Johnson Center Cinema, Fairfax. A free screening of the new documentary, "Bad Press," followed by a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers, Rebecca Landsberry-Baker and Joe Peeler, and the film's subject, Angel Ellis. An enthralling tale that unfurls with the energy and suspense of a political thriller, "Bad Press" is a timely and unprecedented story about the battle for freedom of the press and against state-censored media. This event is free and open to the public. Register on [Mason360](http://Mason360).

## THURSDAY/NOV. 16

**Performing Arts Documentary.** 1 p.m. At The Alden, 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. 16-18

**"Much Ado About Nothing."** 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday. At South County High School, Lorton. This year, the SCHS Theatre is set to "embrace the classics" by presenting both a Shakespearean play and a 1950s musical. For the fall play, they will transport William Shakespeare's comedy, "Much Ado About Nothing," to a 1970s discotheque! Visit: <https://www.schstheatre.com/> or <https://event.etix.com/ticket/v/15597/>

## NOV. 16-18

**"Peter and the Starcatcher."** Thursday to Saturday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. Presented by Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. The show tells the story of Peter Pan's origin story; appropriate for all ages. Tickets are \$10 General Admission, \$8 senior/military, \$7 students, and \$5 for children 5 and under. Tickets are available online, [mvhstheatrearts.com](http://mvhstheatrearts.com).

## NOV. 16-18

**"The Descendants."** Thursday to Saturday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. At Hayfield Middle School,



The Hayfield Middle School Dramahawks are producing Disney's "The Descendants" Nov. 16-18, 2023.

7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The Hayfield Middle School Dramahawks are producing Disney's "The Descendants." The show is appropriate for all ages. Tickets are available online, [www.hayfelddrama.com](http://www.hayfelddrama.com), and at the door and cost \$10 each.

## NOV. 16-18

**"Almost, Maine."** 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Nov. 18. At Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. One deeply cold and magical Midwinter Night, the citizens of Almost -- not organized enough for a town, too populated for a wilderness -- experience the life-altering power of the human heart. Relationships end, begin, or change beyond recognition, as strangers become friends, friends become lovers, and lovers turn into strangers. Tickets are \$12 for guests and \$10 for students, staff and military on [lbtheatre.com](http://lbtheatre.com).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 17

**Watercolorist Deborah Conn.** 11 a.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Art Society will present Deborah Conn, demonstrating her technique in creating portraits using a painting surface of crinkled tissue paper. Ms. Conn has distinguished herself among watercolorists as a Signature member of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists, the Baltimore Watercolor Society, the Virginia Watercolor Society and has just recently been selected as a Signature member of both the Northwest Watercolor Society and

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Watercolorist Deborah Conn will demonstrate her technique on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023 at the McLean Community Center.

the National Watercolor Society. She has won many awards for her work, both regionally and nationally and has been teaching beginner through advanced classes in her home studio in Falls Church for nine years. She has taught watercolor classes on cruise ships since 2016.

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 17

**Holiday Kick-Off Event / Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.** 6 – 8 p.m. Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza. To kick off the 2023 Holiday Season on the Plaza, Tysons Corner Center will honor Best Buddies during an onstage ceremony. “Local Hero”, Mark Thompson, a Special Education Department Chair and Advisor at McLean High School, will receive a gift of \$500 for his charitable efforts. Following the event, celebrates the sights and sounds of the season with a showcase by Santa lighting the Plaza Christmas Tree, along with community performances, and live music.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**Workhouse Gala: Coloring Our World.** 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The annual gala is the largest and most significant fundraiser of the year, providing critical support to sustain the accessible and high-quality multidisciplinary arts experiences it brings to Fairfax County every year. Coloring Our World will be an evening of elegance, artistry, and creativity hosted under the Rizer pavilion. Sponsorship opportunities are available now. To secure your sponsorship, contact: Elena Forbes, Director of Advancement [elenaforbes@workhousearts.org](mailto:elenaforbes@workhousearts.org) or call 703-5874-2986.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Renée Fleming.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Renée Fleming, one of the most celebrated singers of our time and a 2023 Kennedy Center Honoree, joins the Fairfax Symphony for an exclusive



The FSO with Renee Fleming can be seen on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023 at GMU Center for the Arts in Fairfax.

evening featuring the exquisite Four Last Songs by Richard Strauss. This special co-presentation with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra also includes Strauss’s Don Juan, Wagner’s Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan and Isolde, and Fleming’s performance of beloved arias and show tunes.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**Speaker Alexandra Havard.** 7 p.m. At Oakcrest School, 1619 Crowell Road, Vienna. Oakcrest School is pleased to welcome Alexandre Havard, author and founder of the Virtuous Leadership Institute, to speak on “Pursuing a Free Heart: From Temperament to Character.” Born in Paris, Mr. Havard graduated from the René Descartes University, one of France’s leading law schools, and has practiced law in several European countries. He offers seminars in virtuous leadership worldwide to business leaders and students alike.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**St. Timothy Craft Fair.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 13809 Poplar Tree Road, Chantilly. Featuring 50-plus vendors: jewelry, fine art, religious, pottery, fashion, home decor, Christmas, raffles and more. Admission: bring a canned good item to help support our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. <https://sttimothy-parish.org/craft-fair/>

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**FSO with Renee Fleming.** 8-10 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Renée Fleming, one of the most celebrated singers of our time, joins the Fairfax Symphony for an exclusive evening featuring the exquisite Four Last Songs by Richard Strauss. Cost: \$100, \$75, \$50; half-price for youth through Grade 12. Call 703-993-2787.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**FallFest.** 12:30 to 5 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come for the day

and join FSRM as they host the original Bavarian Dance Group of Washington ‘Alt Washingtonia’ for dancing, yodeling, cowbell ringing, Alphorns, and traditional German Food and Crafts. ‘Alt Washingtonia’ will provide entertainment in the true Bavarian style, come and watch, but come to learn and participate. Performances are at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m.. You can join in the dancing, try your hand at blowing an Alphon, ringing a cowbell, and more. Enjoy German food and snacks (extra fee) and create and learn about traditional German Holiday Crafts. One craft per person (a ticket will be provided at admission). If you wish to make additional crafts purchase, tickets for \$1 each (all while supplies last). [www.Fairfax-station.org](http://www.Fairfax-station.org), [www.Facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.Facebook.com/FFXSRR), 703-425-9225.

#### SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**Negin Farsad – Comedian.** 7 p.m. At CenterStage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Negin is a regular panelist for NPR. Her book, “How to Make White People Laugh,” was called “frank and hilarious,” and The Austin Chronicle calls her a “master humorist.” Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com).

#### SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**B – The Underwater Bubble Show.** 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Embark on an underwater adventure and discover a realm inhabited by seahorses, dragonfish, starfish, mermaids, and other whimsical and watery creatures! This lavish production—perfect for children and their grownups—combines spectacular acrobatics, enchanting dance, original music, astonishing visual effects, and lots and lots of bubbles to create a fanciful aquatic world that must be seen to be believed.

#### SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**NTRAK Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road,



The Church Street Stroll takes place on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023 in the Town of Vienna.

Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N-Gauge Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors 65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. For more information on the museum and show events phone 703-425-9225. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR)

#### SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**Musical Magic Balalaika Concert.** 3 p.m. At Kenmore Auditorium, 200 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington. The Washington Balalaika Society will celebrate its 35th year with a wonderful concert, Musical Magic!, featuring new repertoire and old favorites. This new program was created by Conductor and Artistic Director, Svetlana Nikonova. This special anniversary concert will include soloists from the orchestra, as well as featuring an original composition by one of the youngest members. The program also includes compositions of classical composers, such as Mussorgsky, Elgar and Kreisler, as well as folk tunes, film themes and the spectacular Great Gate of Kiev! Tickets: Adults \$30; Seniors/Military \$25; Students \$15; Children 12 & under \$5. For tickets, visit [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org).

#### TUESDAY/NOV. 21

**Five Hills Garden Club Program-Reciprocating with the Soil.** 11 a.m. At Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, N.E. Vienna. Dan Schwartz with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will speak at the Five Hills Garden Club meeting. Schwartz will speak about why and how we can encourage healthy soil in our gardens and communities. His presentation will include tips on improving the biology of your soil, how this can allow us to garden without the need for supplemental chemicals, and how healthy soil benefits both the gardener and the entire community.

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 24

**Reston Holiday Parade.** 11 a.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. Celebrating its 32nd year, the one-of-a-kind, one-hour, half-mile parade along Market Street also welcomes the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in a horse-drawn carriage. Since

1992, rain or shine, the parade has been an annual tradition on the day after Thanksgiving. After the parade, the Clauses will return for the Tree Lighting at 6:00 p.m. on Market Street. Bring your parade bells and join us for a day full of holiday cheer!

#### NOV. 25-26

**“The Nutcracker.”** At Fairfax High School, Fairfax. The Fairfax Ballet Company presents a full-length production of “The Nutcracker.” Two show times include: Nov. 25 at 4 p.m. and Nov. 26 at 4 p.m. Fairfax Ballet Company members, along with guest professional artists and students from the Russell School of Ballet, join Clara and her Nutcracker Prince in this journey through a winter wonderland of dancing snowflakes, twirling candy canes, and an epic battle between heroic toy soldiers and mischievous mice. Chloe Shulsinger, a senior at Westfield High School in Chantilly and member of the Fairfax Ballet Company, dances the role of Clara, and professional guest artist Philip Smith-Cobbs, previously with the Atlanta Ballet, portrays the Nutcracker Prince. For tickets, visit [www.fairfaxballetnutcracker2023.bpt.me](http://www.fairfaxballetnutcracker2023.bpt.me). Tickets are also available at the door one hour before each show. For group discounts, email [events@rsbdance.com](mailto:events@rsbdance.com)

#### MONDAY/NOV. 27

**Church Street Stroll.** 6 p.m. At the Town of Vienna in front of Freeman Store and Museum. Includes musical entertainment from local school groups and holiday greetings from Mayor Linda Colbert, the Vienna Town Council, and other elected leaders. New this year is a tree lighting ceremony with a traditional, decorated evergreen tree on the Freeman Store lawn! Santa will make his grand entrance down Church Street aboard the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department’s antique fire truck. After the official ceremony, participants can visit with Santa, stroll down historic Church Street, enjoy the festive lights, enjoy hot chocolate, warm up by a bonfire and explore the holiday shopping specials inside local Church Street businesses. Revelers can also enjoy tours of the nearby Caboose, the Vienna Train Station, and the Little Library for a trip down memory lane. For more information: call Historic Vienna at 703-938-5187 or visit [www.viennava.gov/stroll](http://www.viennava.gov/stroll).



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# SPORTS



Madison HS place kicker Danika Pflughardt #37 successfully kicks an extra point after a Madison touchdown

## Madison Defeats Langley, Continues March

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

### Brothers score five TDs between them.

BY WILL PALENSCAR  
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

The Madison Warhawks hosted the visiting Langley Saxons on Nov. 10 in Vienna for a first round football playoff game.

Opening the quarter Dominic Kniceley scored the first of his three touchdowns with 8:42 to play in the first quarter. Just 42 seconds later Dominic Kniceley scored his second touchdown on a 48 yard punt return touchdown. Later, in the 3rd quarter Cord Yates scored on a 50 yard touchdown reception from his brother, QB Cael Yates. Madison now up 21-0 with 3:58 to play in the opening quarter.

In the 2nd quarter Cole Hamburg scored on a short 3 yard touchdown run to put the Saxons on the board, however the point after was blocked by Madison's Charlie Backman and the score remained 21-6. With 4 seconds remaining until halftime, Darren Kniceley scored the first of his two touchdowns on a 5-yard reception from Cael Yates. Madison would enter halftime upon 28-6.

In the 3rd quarter Dominic Kniceley ran in



Madison's Dominic Kniceley #1 and brother Darren Kniceley #11 kneel down before Madisons game with Langley

from 15 yards for his 3rd touchdown, putting Madison firmly in control 35-6 with 4:25 to play until the final quarter. With 18 seconds to play in the 3rd quarter Darren Kniceley scored his second touchdown of the game with a 25 yard touchdown reception from Cael Yates.

Madison and Langley would not score in the 4th quarter and Madison (10-1) would advance to the second round of the playoffs with a 42-6 win. Langley would end their season at (5-6). Madison will host Herndon (8-3) who were 28-21 winners over McLean. In the other Region D 2nd Round playoff game, Westfield will host Yorktown after defeating Washington-Liberty 30-7. Yorktown defeated previously unbeaten South Lakes 7-6.

## Wrapping Up Matters

FROM PAGE 11

The proposal also limits uplights or spotlights within the one-half-mile area to 300 lumens. Editorial revisions to clarify when previously existing lighting fixtures may remain and add a new provision to allow lawfully existing fixtures within a one-half-mile radius around the Observatory to remain.

A copy of the staff report and the full text of the proposed ordinance are available on [www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/zoning-ordinance/amendments](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/zoning-ordinance/amendments) and can be made available for review at the Zoning Administration Division, Department of Planning and Development, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

A final agenda is available for review in the Office of the Clerk for the Board and at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/board-supervisors-meetings>.

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## Cause and Effect



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What a pleasure the last few months have been for you Kenny-column readers who aren't particularly interested in cancer. Rarely, if at all, has there been a cancer-centric, dare I admit, self-indulgent column for your tepid perusal. Oh sure, there's been the odd reference here or there, but nothing too intense or the least bit intentional to focus you on the ups and downs of life in the cancer lane. A bumpy road if there ever was one.

In fact, it's been over three months since I've droned on about cancer. An amount of time which coincides with the longest interval between scans that I've ever experienced: over four months. And as much as I would like (Oh, how I would like) to say that this reflects a cancer remission, it does not. Instead, it reflects how slowly my thyroid cancer is progressing, and a modest attempt as well by my oncologist to reduce/manage the amount of radiation I've been exposed to, and likely will continue to be exposed to, so long as I shall live, that is. Granted, from what I've been told, the amount of radiation I'm exposed to during one of my C.T. or P.E.T. scans are modest, in the scheme of things. Nevertheless, in my scheme, considering the number of scans I've had over nearly 15 years, there might be a cumulative – and side, effect: cancer. I guess having one cancer doesn't preclude you from getting another. (I think that's sort of unfair, don't you?)

When my oncologist explained his thinking for extending my scan interval to four months from three months, I was 100% for it. Initially he said that obviously my cancer is slow moving, given the almost 15 years we've been involved, so an additional month between diagnostic scans is reasonable/not likely problematic; especially because, he added, after all these years/scans, it is prudent that we try to minimize my exposure to radiation. One doesn't exactly build up an immunity to radiation. Upon hearing that concern, which I don't recall ever hearing or considering before, I perked up and asked "Really? Why now? What's the risk?" His answer was somewhere between ironic and predictable: "Cancer."

Incredulous, I blurted out: "Cancer? Do you mean to tell me that a side effect of my cancer treatment/diagnostic scanning is more cancer and not simply more of the same cancer?" "Yes, he replied." After all these treatment years of chemotherapy and changing my diagnosis from non-small cell lung cancer to papillary thyroid cancer, and beating all the odds, the (I don't want to say end) result might be that I've possibly caused another set of cancer tumors to take hold and threaten my life? "Cheese and crackers," as my late father said many times when surprised and disappointed by something somebody said to him. Or as I might have uttered, when I heard the oncologist's explanation: "Holy s\*\*\*!" Seems like a dirty trick. But I imagine the choice at the beginning of my treatment was the here and now, not the maybe later. When you're diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, and given a terminal prognosis as I was, there's often not much talk of a later, so the focus better be on the present. And so, it was. And now, nearly 15 years later, the success of my own unexpected survival has a side effect of its own? As my former co-worker, Monique, would say: "Crazy kookie." Meaning, you can't make this stuff up. How I wish I was.

Well, I'm not going to overreact yet. I'll wait, as my oncologist said, for my late Nov. scan and my mid-November lab work to see if there have been any unfortunate changes. I often joke that the longer I live, the closer I get to the end rather than further away from the beginning. Not that I'm the least bit negative, as you regular readers know, but occasionally when you're aware of your health, as most cancer patients are, you do pay attention to what's happening to your body. And as much as you might want to chalk up any changes to older age, that's probably not the best approach. As my oncologist told me years ago, if I were to experience any new symptoms, particularly ones that persist for a few weeks, please contact him. And over the years, I have gotten better about honestly assessing my situation and making real-time decisions to get medical help, or at least get a medical opinion/evaluation about whatever is happening to me. As much as I'd love to ignore my situation and pretend that it's not as serious as it is, turning a blind eye or a deaf ear to my reality is not likely to solve the problem. Although the cancer I have is "incurable," it doesn't mean that I can't live a relatively normal life. It just means that I'll be undergoing treatment of some kind for the rest of my life. But I can live with that, hopefully. It just requires patience and understanding, and a whole lot of luck.

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





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