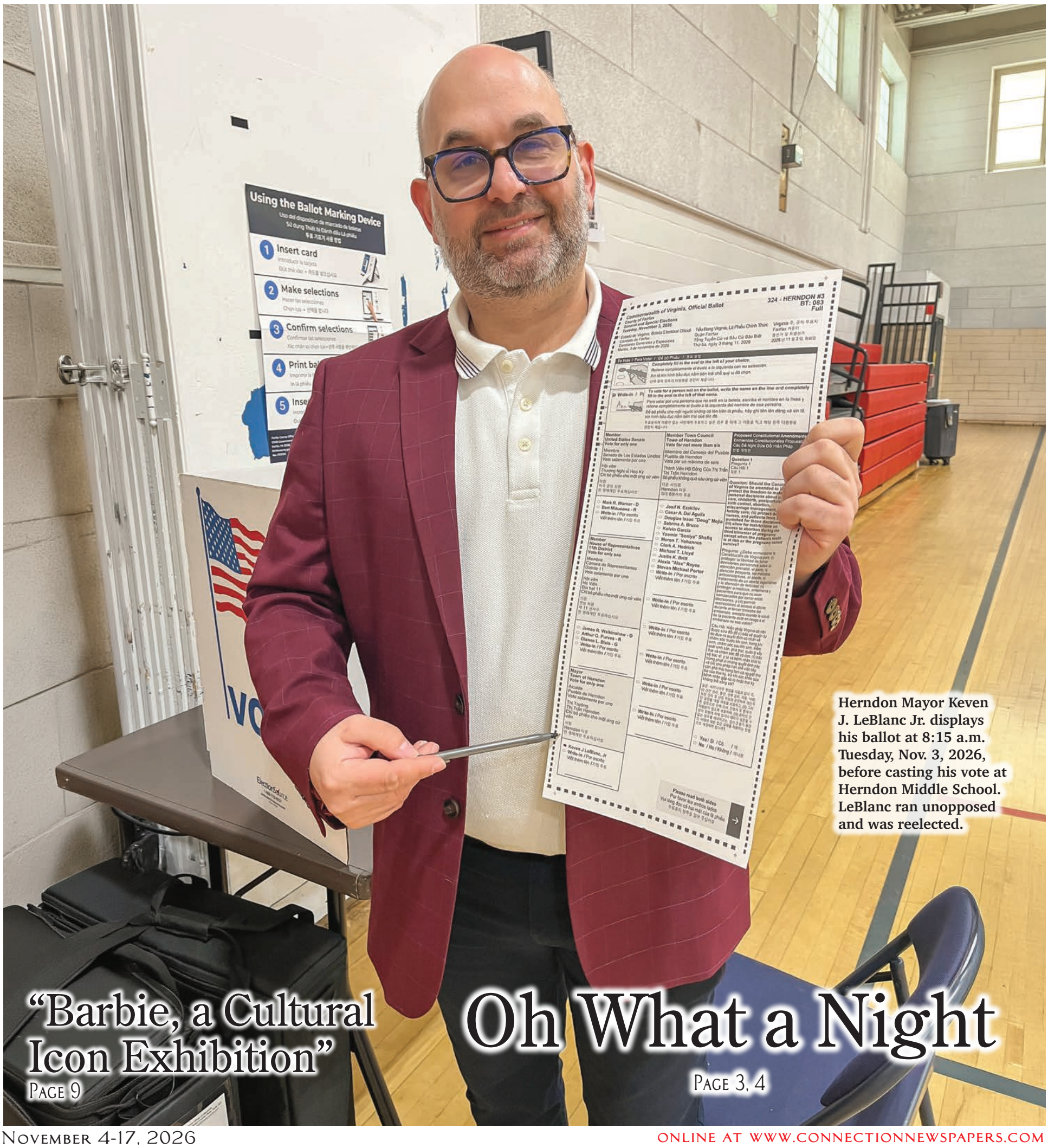
THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

Community News at a Glance, Page 10 ❖ Entertainment, Page 12



Herndon Mayor Keven J. LeBlanc Jr. displays his ballot at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, before casting his vote at Herndon Middle School. LeBlanc ran unopposed and was reelected.

Photo by Mercia Hobson/The Connection

"Barbie, a Cultural Icon Exhibition"

Page 9

Oh What a Night

Page 3, 4



Fairfax Supervisors Align Local Zoning with State Code

Board adopted mandatory changes impacting housing, parking, solar and data centers.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a series of zoning amendments on Oct. 27 to align local regulations with 2026 updates to the Code of Virginia, which took effect statewide on July 1, 2026. The board changes, which revise requirements for manufactured housing, solar and battery storage, wireless facilities, residential parking near transit and more, took effect at 12:01 a.m. on Oct. 28.

Before the vote, Board Chairman Jeff McKay emphasized that the changes were not county-initiated proposals. He stated they were "passed in the Commonwealth of Virginia" and "imposed upon localities," adding, "We may like some of them. We may not like all of them."

Fairfax County Government staff presenter Austin Gastrell, a senior zoning inspector, said the amendments were "generally the minimum necessary changes" required to comply with the updated state code.

Among the updates are new manufactured housing regulations under House Bill 655 and House Bill 1463. HB 655 allows manufactured homes on residential or planned-development lots where site-built homes are permitted. Gastrell said the bill permits "manufactured homes on any individual lot within a residential or planned development district where site-built homes are allowed." HB 1463 further allows these homes to be placed on open sites in nonconforming manufactured-home parks.

For renewable energy projects, House Bill 711 updates standards and review requirements for solar facilities of at least one megawatt seeking special-exception approval, including a mandate for visual-impact analysis. House Bill 891 allows qualifying battery storage at an approved solar facility if its capacity does not exceed the facility's, without requiring a special-exception amendment.

Regarding wireless facilities, House Bill 277 limits the denial of certain requests to modify existing facilities when a request "does not substantially change the dimensions of the facility" or involves specified equipment changes or co-location. House Bill 876 allows for temporary wireless structures through administrative permits, initially for 180 days, with renewals "not to exceed a total of two years." Regarding these

See Fairfax Supervisors, Page 8





Days Leading to Election Night Results for Fairfax County

Unofficial results as of Election Night.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the Connection's print production deadline, election coverage in print editions reflects preliminary, unofficial returns published by the Virginia Department of Elections as of 8:30 p.m. for the midterm elections Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.



Screenshot Fairfax County

A new, permanent ballot drop box for returning mail-in ballots was installed in the North County Governmental Center in Reston on Oct. 30, just in time for the Nov. 3 midterm elections. It is currently one of only three permanent drop boxes in Fairfax County.



Photo contributed

Fairfax County residents line up to cast early ballots outside Herndon Fortnightly Library on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, in the Town of Herndon.

Early statewide voting results in Virginia as of 8:20 p.m. Nov. 3, Democratic candidates held leads for the U.S. Senate, voters appeared poised to approve three constitutional amendments, and Fairfax County voters backed multimillion-dollar park and health infrastructure bond referendums.

In the Town of Herndon, early unofficial results showed a tight nonpartisan race with several incumbents trailing behind challengers.

Preliminary results follow a surge in early voting across Fairfax County, where voters cast 230,632 cumulative early ballots by Nov. 2. That marks a 73 percent increase over the 133,336 early ballots cast at the same point in the 2022 midterm election, according to data from the Virginia Public Access Project. There are 824,134 registered voters in Fairfax County, according to the Virginia Department of Elections.

In the statewide race for the U.S. Senate as of 8:35 p.m., incumbent Democratic Sen. Mark Warner held an expected lead in his bid for a fourth term, ahead of Republican challenger Bert K. Mizusawa, a retired Army major general. With 1,544 of 2,529 precincts reporting, Warner, a City of Alexandria resident, led the contest with 1,017,644 votes (58.42 percent) to Mizusawa's 724,244 votes (41.58 percent). Tuesday night, Warner posted, "Thank you, Virginia. It's the honor of my lifetime to serve you. Here's to six more years fighting for you."

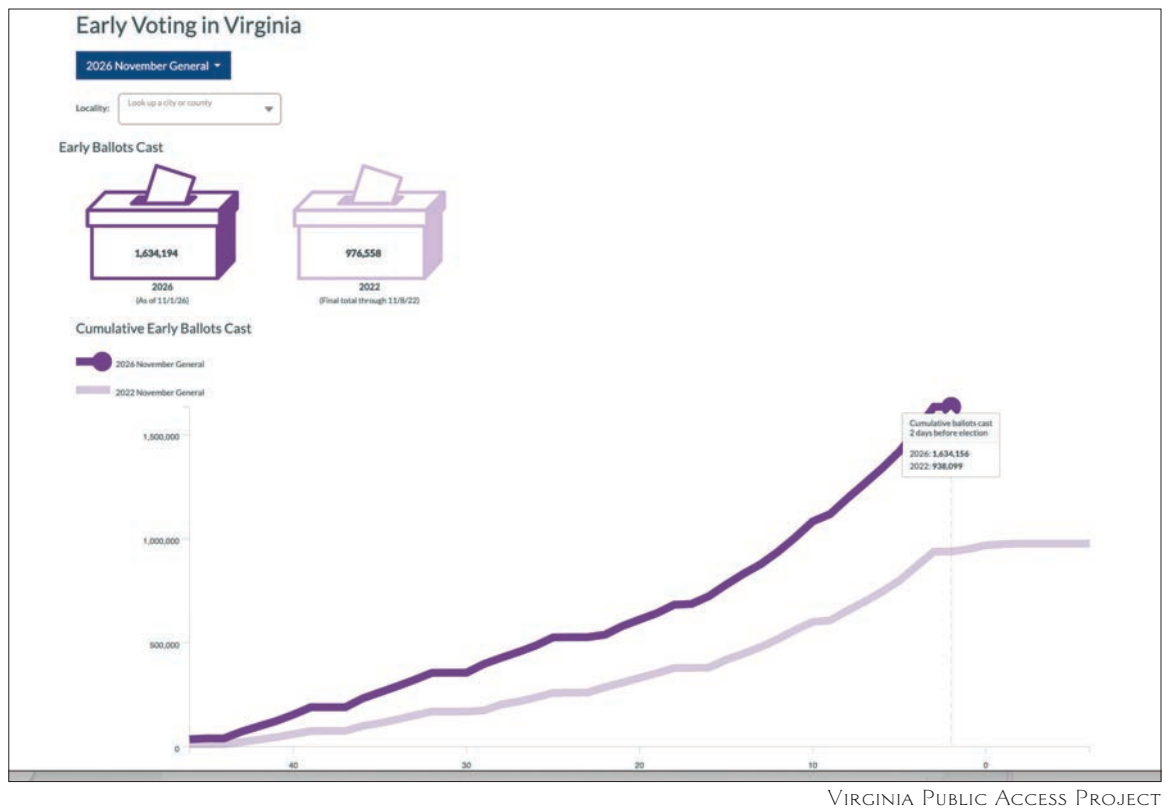
In the 11th Congressional District centered in central and western Fairfax County, Democratic incumbent Rep. James Walkinshaw dominated preliminary returns with 83,200 votes (71.16 percent) as of 8:50 p.m., with 96 of 181 precincts reporting and 119,525 early votes left. Republican candidate Arthur Purves received 32,036 votes (27.4 percent), followed by Green Party candidate Dianne Blais with 1,691 votes (1.45 percent).

In Virginia's 8th Congressional District — covering Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and eastern Fairfax County — incumbent Democratic Rep. Don Beyer Jr. surged ahead in the multi-candidate field with 133,876 votes (82.32 percent) as of 8:40 p.m., with 113 of 172 precincts reporting and 60,496 early votes remaining, and declared victory. Republican challenger Tony Sabio followed with 24,751 votes (15.22 percent), while independent candidate Tim S. Sharman garnered 2,172 votes (1.34 percent) and Libertarian candidate Shelly Arnold received 1,829 votes (1.12 percent).

Across the 10th Congressional District spanning western Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties, Democrat Suhas Subramanyam built an advantage with 180,268 votes as of 8:50 p.m., with 166 of 197 precincts reporting and 32,042 early votes left, declaring victory. He led Republican nominee Dave Beckwith, who earned 107,222 votes (36.57 percent), and independent candidate Ahsen Mujeeb Malik, who gathered 5,695 votes (1.94 percent).

In early statewide returns as of 9 p.m., Virginia voters showed strong support for all three constitutional measures on the ballot. For Question 1, concerning the right to reproductive freedom, "Yes" led with 1,344,030 votes (61.8 percent), while "No" received 830,723 votes (38.2 percent).

For Question 2, concerning the right to same-sex marriage, "Yes" led with 1,249,885 votes (51.21 percent), while "No" received 934,856 votes (42.79 percent).



Virginia Public Access Project

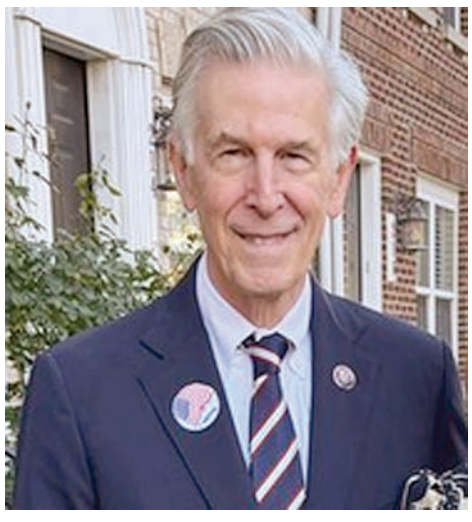
Early voting in Virginia reaches 1,634,194 cumulative early ballots cast for the 2026 November general election as of Nov. 1, 2026, compared with a final total of 976,558 cast in the 2022 midterm election, according to data from the Virginia Public Access Project.

For Question 3, concerning the right to vote and restoration of voting rights for felons, "Yes" led with 1,207,671 votes (53.39 percent), while "No" received 972,548 votes (44.61 percent).

In local referendums,

Fairfax County voters appeared poised to approve both general obligation bond referendums on the ballot. For the $180 million Parks and Park Facilities Bond, "Yes" received 143,432 votes (67.82 percent), while "No" received 68,043 votes (32.18 percent). At the time

See Unofficial Results, Page 4



Screen grab via X

After polls closed at 7 p.m., incumbent U.S. Rep. Don Beyer leads the multi-candidate field in Virginia's 8th Congressional District. Beyer declared victory for his seventh term representing the district.

Unofficial Results as of Election Night

From Page 3

of publication, 214 of 265 precincts had reported, with 208,164 early votes still to be counted. If approved, the measure will allocate capital for countywide park upgrades, including $89 million to rebuild the Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park.

For the $75 million Community Health and Human Services Bond, "Yes" received 142,273 votes (67.42 percent), while "No" received 68,761 votes (32.58 percent), with 214 of 265 precincts reporting and 208,186 early votes still to be counted.

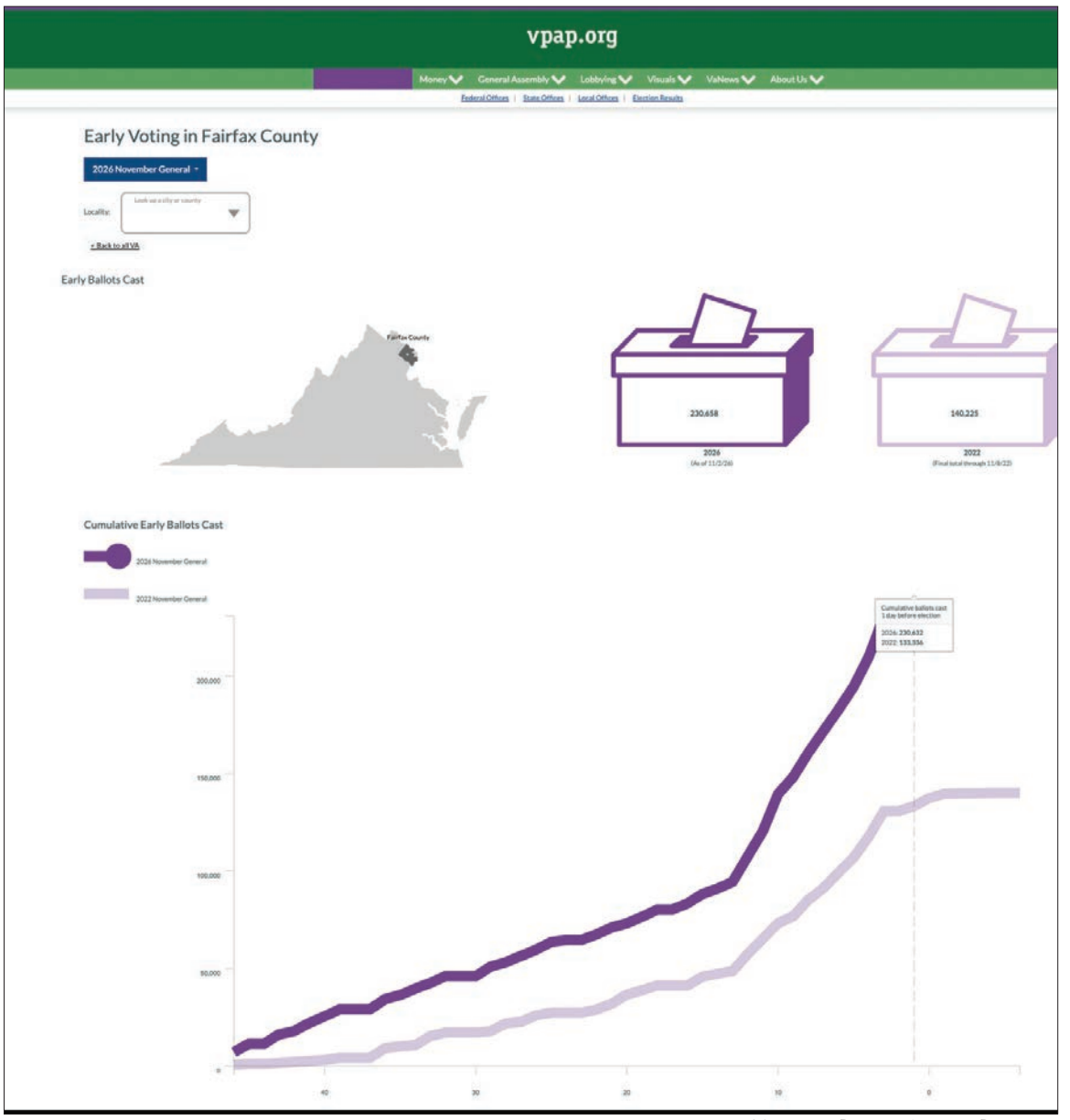
In the Town of Herndon nonpartisan municipal election as of 9:20 p.m., incumbent Keven J. LeBlanc Jr., running unopposed for mayor, won with 2,772 votes (94.64 percent). In the at-large election for Herndon Town Council, the top six finishers were challengers Sabrina A. Bruce with 1,821 votes (12.37 percent), Yasmin "Soniya" Shafiq with 1,708 votes (11.6 percent), and Meron T. Yohannes with 1,527 votes (10.37 percent), followed by current vice mayor, Clark A. Hedrick with 1,418 votes (9.63 percent), then challengers, Josif N. Ezekilov with 1,309 votes (8.89 percent), and Justin K. Britt with 1,205 votes (8.18 percent).

Tuesday evening's preliminary results highlight a consistent political baseline across Northern Virginia. Strong early voter participation gave Democratic candidates decisive advantages, and at the county level, Fairfax voters reinforced their commitment to local infrastructure. In the local town election, the results show a major shift toward non-incumbent candidates.



Screen grab via Facebook

Incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark Warner won his bid for a fourth term as U.S. senator. He made his final campaign pitch in Alexandria on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026.



Virginia Public Access Project

Early voting in Fairfax County.



Photo by Mercia Hobson/ The Connection

At approximately 8:30 a.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, State Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-Fairfax, chief patron of Virginia Constitutional Amendment 1, poses outside Herndon Middle School (901 Locust St., Herndon). Boysko criticized sample ballots distributed at the site by the Fairfax County Republican Committee urging a "Vote no on all three" measures, calling the GOP claims factually inaccurate.

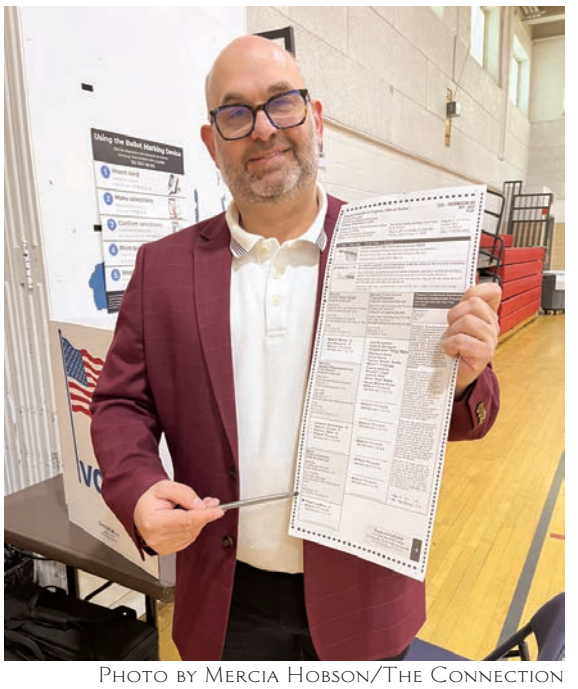


Photo by Mercia Hobson/The Connection

Running unopposed in the Town of Herndon municipal election, incumbent Mayor Keven J. LeBlanc Jr. displays his marked ballot at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, before casting his vote at Herndon Middle School, which serves as the polling location for Precinct 324 (Herndon #3).

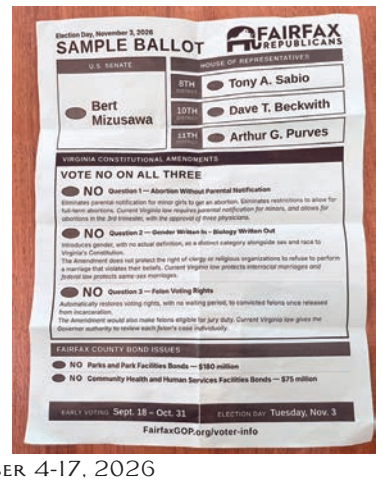


Photo by Mercia Hobson
The Connection

A sample ballot distributed by the Fairfax County Republican Committee on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, urges voters to vote "no" on all three proposed Virginia constitutional amendments. All three passed according to preliminary results.

Planning Commission Defers Action on Accessory Living Units

Public testimony cites parking, stormwater and infrastructure concerns.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

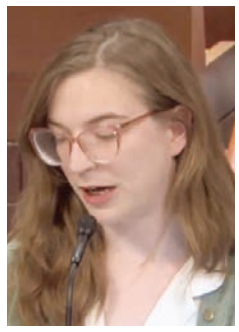
The Fairfax County Planning Commission deferred a decision on the controversial accessory living unit (ALU) zoning amendments following a three-hour public hearing on Oct. 29, pushing the vote to Nov. 4 to allow more time for review.



Screen grab via Fairfax County video

Clyde Miller representing the Holmes Run Valley Civic Association testifies.

County planners Casey Judge and Carmen Bishop, joined by Zoning Administrator Andrew Hushauer, presented proposed ALU zoning amendments as part of the county's housing action plan to increase flexibility while retaining standards for neighborhood compatibility. Staff described the proposal as a way to streamline ALU review. They defined an ALU as "a secondary dwelling unit that's in conjunction with and clearly subordinate to a single-family detached dwelling unit," and described interior and detached configurations. The proposal would remove the separate zoning administrative permit, the owner-occupancy requirement, and the requirement for an additional off-street parking space for an ALU. Zoning standards would still be reviewed as part of the building-permit process, and other applicable requirements would remain.



Fairfax County video

Becca Dedert, Virginia housing advocacy specialist with the Coalition for Smarter Growth, reads her testimony.

Regarding proposed updates to the county's Accessory Living Unit ordinance, Commissioner Candice Bennett, an at-large member and parliamentarian of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, confirmed with county staff after the meeting and clarified to The Connection in an email that "the amendment would not apply to areas that have their own municipal zoning codes."

Public speakers testifying following the staff report offered differing views on the proposed changes. Among them, Clint Harris, president of the McLean Citizens Association, supported interior ALUs that do not change a home's exterior, but raised concerns about exterior units on smaller lots and their height, as well as the potential impact of removing owner-occupancy and parking requirements.

"Our concerns relate to allowing exterior ALUs on lots smaller than half an acre, and allowing overly tall exterior ALUs, eliminating the owner-occupant requirement, [and] reducing on-site parking requirements," Harris said. He said the association supported eliminating the separate administrative permit, its two-year approval period and five-year renewal requirement, and the requirement to record permits in land records.

Clyde Miller, testifying for the Holmes Run Valley Citizens Association, supported adding housing options but urged the commission to consider neighbors' interests regarding occupancy, traffic, and parking. He said the owner "should be required to live on the property," and said that unrelated residents should be limited to six.

Becca Dedert, a Virginia housing advocacy specialist with the Coalition for Smarter Growth, supported staff's core recommendations and urged the commission to go further by eliminating minimum lot sizes for detached ALUs and allowing interior ALUs in attached homes by right.

"We strongly encourage the Planning Commission to meet standard practices for accessory home regulations and eliminate minimum lot size requirements entirely for detached ALUs," she said. Citing the county's housing needs assessment, Dieter said Fairfax would need 40,000 to 95,000 new homes by 2035.

Following the staff presentations, public comment, and commissioner discussion, the Planning Commission unanimously deferred a decision on the proposed ALU amendments to Nov. 4. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hold a final public hearing on the matter on Nov. 17.

As county leaders deliberate, the debate highlights the ongoing challenge of balancing regional housing goals with traditional suburban neighborhoods.

"We're hopeful the Planning Commission will take the time to seriously consider how to achieve a balanced approach that provides additional housing options through ALUs while maintaining the character of single-family neighborhoods," Tyler Ray, president of the Bren Pointe Homeowners Association and founder of the Save Bren Mar Coalition, said in an email to The Connection. "We believe this includes an owner-occupancy requirement, [retaining the] permit process, and ensuring adequate parking."

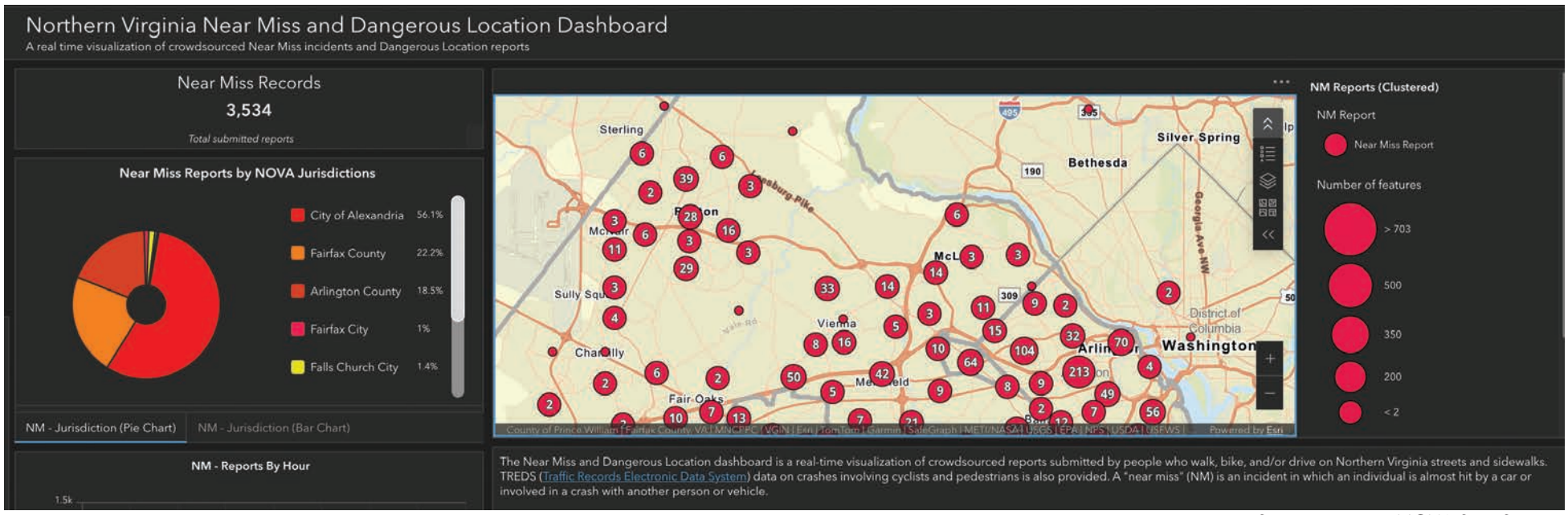
To view the video, visit https://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/4325?view_id=10&redirect=true.











Screen grab via NOVA Safe Streets

Northern Virginia Near Miss and Dangerous Location Dashboard.

Theme: 'Invest in Safety, Not Speed'

NOVA Families for Safe Streets World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is Nov. 15.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets reports that 32 people have been killed while walking, biking, or rolling on Northern Virginia streets and highways since last year's World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The advocacy group will host a public memorial event at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax, to honor the victims and advocate for safer regional infrastructure. This year's U.S. theme, "Invest in Safety, Not Speed," is a call to action.

The fatalities, as of Oct. 29, 2026, include 24 in Fairfax County, five in Alexandria, two in Arlington, and one in Fairfax City.

The 32 deaths recorded over the past year represent a sharp increase from recent annual figures. According to an analysis by NoVA FSS using state crash data from the Virginia Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS) — the database managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles — vulnerable road user deaths across the region totaled roughly 25 in 2023–2024 and 21 in 2024–2025.

Mike Doyle, founder and executive director of NoVA Families for Safe Streets, said outdated road designs and low visibility are primary drivers of these crashes. He noted that "Approximately 70% of Vulnerable Road User fatalities happen at night and another 15% are killed during dawn or dusk," making better street lighting and personal visibility essential.

Doyle highlighted how the rapid urbanization of major arterial roads puts multimodal travelers at risk. On high-crash corridors such as Richmond Highway and Route 7, traffic signals are often spaced 600 to 1,500 feet apart. This spacing frequently compels pedestrians to attempt dangerous mid-block crossings across four to six lanes of traffic.

A distance of 1,500 feet is the length of five football fields.

Doyle called on state and local officials to adopt tactical road modifications, lower speed limits, and safer crossing designs to protect the region's growing population of vulnerable road users. "We urge VDOT to modify their road design standards on selected high crash corridors to reflect better how increasingly urban and mixed-use development creates an environment where tactical modifications to the road design provide better protection for today's multimodal road users," Doyle said.

In conjunction with the Nov. 15 event, NoVA FSS has outlined three specific calls to action. The first is safety cameras; the group is urging local and regional policymakers to leverage "new authority to install stop-sign cameras in school zones and expand speed safety cameras across high-crash networks."



Screen grab via NOVA Safe Streets

Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets and national Families for Safe Streets movement use candles, flowers, and shoes or empty chairs during the World Day of Remembrance to bridge personal grief with advocacy.

The second is "VDOT Urbanization/Modernization," calling on VDOT, as well as state delegates and senators, to "modernize VDOT's high-crash corridors so that protecting people walking, biking, and rolling is as fundamental as preserving vehicle mobility."

The third is "Victim Justice." NoVA FSS is targeting state delegates and senators to "ensure justice, accountability and fair treatment for everyone killed or injured in a traffic crash — and for the families and survivors left behind — by modifying the Contributory Negligence rule so that crash victims and their families get a fair chance at justice."

Under the current contributory negligence doctrine in Virginia, if an injured party is found to be even 1% at fault for an accident, they are generally barred from recovering any compensation, regardless of the other party's negligence. Only a few other areas in the U.S. follow pure contributory negligence: Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.

Detectives Investigate Fatal Crash in Burke

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a three-vehicle crash that left one man dead in Burke.

On Oct. 31 at 5:43 p.m., officers responded to a multi-vehicle crash at Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Road.

Preliminarily, a 2014 Infiniti Q-70 was traveling southbound on Fairfax County Parkway when the driver made several lane changes before veering onto the right shoulder, striking a traffic signal pole. The Infiniti then struck a 2007 Lexus RX 350 stopped at a red light on Burke Lake Road, causing the Lexus to strike a 2024 Mazda MX-5.

The driver of the Infiniti, Daniel Locke Jr., 82, of Fairfax Station, was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased. The occupants of the Lexus and Mazda were not injured.

Preliminarily, detectives believe speed was a factor in the crash. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor. Detectives are continuing to investigate the circumstances surrounding the crash.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers of Fairfax County by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

Can an Ever-Urbanizing County Be Green?

Question posed at the Green Fairfax Environmental Summit.

By Glenda C. Booth
The Connection

Opening the Oct. 19 Green Fairfax Environmental Summit, Dalia Palchik, Providence District member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, teed up some of the challenges of an urbanizing county, asking, "Can the county grow and be more sustainable at the same time?"

Noting that 30 years ago people could get to Tyson's Corner only by car, today there are four Metro subway stations. "We must transform an environment built for the car," she emphasized, adding, "I'm working to transform Tysons."

Since there is little land left to develop, "It's all about redevelopment," she said. "When we build up instead of out, we protect the green space we'd otherwise pave over. A new building can use a fraction of the energy of the office park it replaces. A redevelopment can add the stormwater management and tree canopy that an old parking lot never had. Every new project is a chance to fix something that we weren't thinking about 30 to 40 years ago."

Around 100 people from the private sector, local governments and non-governmental organizations met at McLean's Mitre Corporation to explore the county's infrastructure, environmental conditions and challenges. Palchik hopes this will be the first of future annual summits.



Providence Supervisor Dalia Palchik organized the summit.



Congressman James Walkinshaw is working to address climate change impacts.



The sustainable transportation panel: Maria Lashinger, Gorove Slade; Michael Pinkoske, VIKA; Dr. Alireza Ermagun, George Mason University; Bill Pugh, Coalition for Smarter Growth.



Photo by Hunter Wagenaar

Sharon Bradley spoke about new frameworks for crafting impactful and inclusive landscape design.



Photo by Hunter Wagenaar

Dr. Celso Ferreira presenting on flood risk and mitigation in the County.

Reusing, Redoing Buildings

Keynoter Tony Malkin stressed that "adaptive reuse" is more environmentally sound than building a new building. "The greenest building is the one already built," he said, describing how his company revamped New York City's 95-year-old, 2.8 million-square-foot Empire State Building and cut energy use by 38 percent. He cited the Retrofit Playbook which suggests best practices to address climate change, practices that the playbook says, "create asset value, reduce emissions and enhance the resilience of assets." Malkin is the chief executive officer of Empire State Realty Trust.

Global Warming Is Here

Climate change is bringing more flooding and more severe and more frequent storms, experts contended. "Fairfax County is experiencing warmer, wetter and weirder climatic conditions," says Fairfax County's resilience plan.

The climate resilience panel explored global warming's local impacts. George Mason University professor Dr. Celso Ferreira said that with decades of development we've seen a "drastic transformation in the landscape," that development often overwhelms stormwater infrastructure. Most of the flooding that occurs is outside the floodplain, he stated, and most stormwater controls were designed based on past assumptions, not for today's or future rainfall events. "We must make room for the water," he said, "and live with water instead of fighting it. Water will flow, like it or not."

Eleventh District Congressman James Walkinshaw also pointed out that "weather events are worsening," and asserted that the federal government is "moving in the wrong direction," with the Trump administration taking steps like "disinvesting in clean energy" and abandoning the Paris Accords, an international treaty to combat climate change.

Walkinshaw has introduced a bill that addresses federal facilities and "heat island" effects and another requiring the Defense Department to collect extreme weather data. Climate change is a serious threat to the military, he said.

Falls Church Mayor Letty Hardi noted that buildings and transportation account for 90 percent of greenhouse gas emissions and that Falls Church is planting more trees and "growing up" instead of sprawling out.

State Senator Saddam Salim credited Virginia's 2020 Clean Economy Act with requiring the state's electricity providers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by moving to less-polluting energy and setting energy-efficiency standards.

Transportation accounts for 43 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in car-centric Fairfax County. To garner more support for public transit, people must "get comfortable with vehicle congestion," Maria Lashinger with Gorove Slade remarked, to uncomfortable snickers.

Bill Pugh with the Coalition for Smarter Growth advocated fixing existing roads before building more. Fairfax County's 2023 "Parking Reimagined" was a "game changer," he said. This zoning change was intended in part to address excess parking and improve walkability and biking infrastructure.

One panel offered ways to design landscapes and "give nature a voice," as Dr. Sharon Bradley put it. Bradley is with Bradley Site Design.

Torsha Bhattacharya with the Fairfax County Park Authority called parks "multi-vitamins" that can address climate change and boost peoples' physical and mental well-being.

Growing and being sustainable can go hand in hand, most speakers maintained.

Uncovering 300 Years of Northern Virginia History, One Property Line at a Time

Historian Karen Washburn's "Supply and Demand" explores three centuries of market swings, development and resilience in Fairfax and Arlington.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

For Fairfax County author Karen Washburn, Northern Virginia's history is more than a record of famous events: It's a story of how ordinary people lived and how the value of land changed over time.

Rather than focusing mainly on famous figures or battles, Washburn, a historian and real estate agent, said she wanted to understand "how the common man handled those big events" in the economy and recovered.

In her 2025 book, "Supply and Demand: The Development of Arlington and Fairfax Counties, 1649–1960," Washburn traces three centuries of market booms and busts, land development and changing social conditions.

"The good news is that while the economy falls, it always recovers," she said.

Washburn's book follows the region's transformation from a sparsely populated, heavily forested landscape to today's high-rises, transit stations and suburban neighborhoods. It tells the region's history through land, economic change and the everyday lives of the people affected.

She noted the book is not a scholarly work. She wrote it as an easy-to-read narrative, complete with illustrations in every chapter, to entertain and educate general readers.

Washburn served on the Fairfax County History Commission as the historic sites representative and also represented the Dranesville District and Great Falls area. She eventually served as chair of the commission during her nine-year tenure. Washburn also wrote about local history for Élan Magazine for 10 years.

Uncovering the Untold Story

To bring this history to life, Washburn went beyond traditional official records. She drew on a treasure trove of oral history interviews, capturing personal memories from local residents. Her research also led her deep into the Fairfax County court archives. There, Washburn gained firsthand access to fragile, centuries-old documents — often untying the red tape binding chancery suit files that had sat unopened for 100 or 200 years.

Washburn's interest in everyday life shows in her accounts of land ownership and value.

"We started with absentee ownership, collecting lots of land in hopes of turning it into money," she said. But the land did not initially produce the hoped-for wealth, at least for original buyers.

"That's where the phrase 'land rich, cash poor' comes from," Washburn explained. As the population grew, "the land took on a value, a cash value."

Asked which economic collapse surprised her most, Washburn pointed to the Panic of 1837, not the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"I don't think many people know about that," she said, crediting modern fertilization and farming techniques with helping the region recover.

"Supply and Demand: The Development of Arlington and Fairfax Counties, 1649–1960" by Karen Washburn is available through Mascot Books/Amplify Publishing Group and retailers including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, ThriftBooks and AbeBooks.

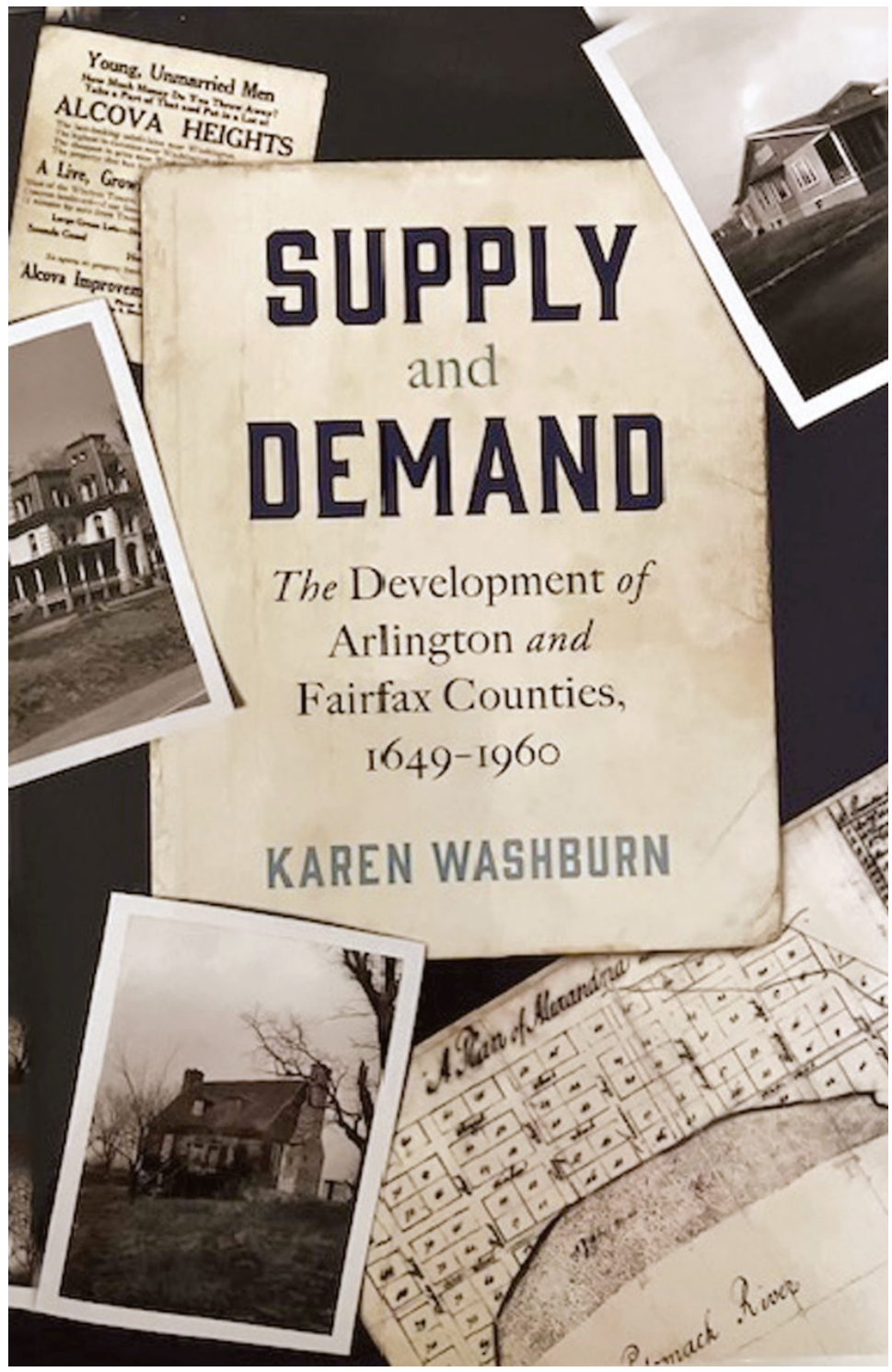


Photo contributed

The cover of "Supply and Demand: The Development of Arlington and Fairfax Counties, 1649–1960" by local author and historian Karen Washburn.

Fairfax Supervisors Align Local Zoning with State Code

From Page 2

temporary structures, Gastrell said, "they do need to be removed from the site."

House Bill 888 updates residential parking rules by defining qualifying transit stations to include "a building or enhanced structure where the general public boards or disembarks mass transit or public transportation." Within a designated half-mile area, the county may require no more than one space per single-family dwelling or one-half space per multifamily dwelling. Gastrell said, "These are parking minimums, not parking maximums," and "the county cannot require more than one or one-half space." Outside designated areas, the county will provide an administrative process for qualifying developments to seek parking reductions of at least 20%.

House Bill 153, High Energy Use Facility (HEUF), requires a noise study for facilities drawing at least 100 megawatts from an electric utility. The study must account for nearby homes and schools within 500 feet and include a statement from the utility regarding energy demand and its source. Gastrell noted that "When reviewing this bill, staff did determine that the only use that could feasibly require this amount of energy would be a data center." He said they are "proposing to amend the application requirements for data centers," adding that "these new criteria would be required at the time of application."

Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn asked Gastrell, "If an applicant voluntarily wants to provide additional parking, that would still be allowed, right?" Gastrell confirmed that the new parking limits were mandatory state requirements that precluded the county from setting higher minimums, though applicants may still voluntarily provide additional parking.

During public comments, Becca Dedert, speaking for the Coalition for Smarter Growth, supported the zoning ordinance amendment to update county codes in compliance with House Bill 888 but voiced concern that the county's interpretation of enhanced structures does not go far enough to cover other fixed route transit stops that would benefit from reductions in residential parking mandates.

"Disappointing that the county's interpretation of the amendments made to the bill will avoid establishing an administrative pathway for eligible developments to seek a 25% reduction in parking requirements within proximity to standard bus stations. This administrative relief mechanism would have supported the development of affordable housing along bus corridors, offered flexibility on constrained sites, and encouraged the use of shared parking agreements," Dietrich testified.

The board unanimously adopted the amendments with the staff-recommended options and editorial revisions from Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith.

Barbie Stars in Richmond Exhibit

"Barbie, a Cultural Icon Exhibition"

By Glenda C. Booth
Connection Newspapers


Pennant promoting the exhibit, the first Barbie, 1959.


The George Washington Barbie.



Becky, Barbie's friend.


Barbie, the astronaut, 1965.


Christie, the first Black Barbie doll, 1968, Barbie's friend


The Malibu surfers, Ken, Christie and Barbie.1973.


Ken, Barbie's boyfriend, is ready for the beach.


In 1962, Barbie wore a replica of the dress that First Lady Jackie Kennedy wore on a trip to India.


Some of the 92 Barbie hairstyles.

With over 250 Barbie dolls displayed amid bright pink walls and girl anthems resonating, the exhibit is a retrospective of social change. Visitors can see Barbie the athlete, the entertainer, the elected official, the doctor, the scientist, the astronaut and more. For 65 years, Barbie has evolved, today with nine body types, 35 skin tones, 52 hair colors and over 94 hairstyles.

Barbie's creator, Ruth Handler, who co-founded Mattel, Inc., with her husband, Elliot, came up with Barbie after seeing that her daughter, Barbara, played with dolls focused on mothering and caregiving, while her son's toys encouraged him to be a firefighter or doctor. "My whole philosophy of Barbie was that through the doll, the little girl could be anything she wanted to be. Barbie always represented the fact that a woman had choices," Handler said.

Creating a Barbie requires a 10-member team, including fashion designers, makeup artists, hair stylists, sculptors, graphic and packaging designers and marketers. They also create her clothes and accessories, like miniature shoes, hats, purses, jewelry, athletic equipment and other accoutrements. A life-size replica of Barbie's hot pink Corvette offers a tempting photo op.

Barbie over the Years

A pony-tailed Barbie debuted in 1959 at the New York Toy Fair wearing a black-and-white, zebra-striped swimsuit and white-rimmed sunglasses. In 1961, her boyfriend, Ken, showed up, and they frolicked in the California surf. In the 1960s, more workplace opportunities for women emerged and Barbie became a flight attendant and even Miss Astronaut in 1965, four years before man landed on the moon.

In 1968, Christie, a talking Black doll, hit the stores, Barbie's friend. Hippies popularized denim, a fabric originally favored by working men, so Barbie donned tight blue jeans with flared bottoms, bib overalls and a denim bra and skirt.

With the feminist movement gaining steam in the 1970s, bolder Barbies wore groovy skirts – minis, midis and maxis. Mattel introduced multi-cultural Barbies and for the first time, her blue eyes faced forward. More jobs opened up and Barbie went to boardrooms and courthouses wearing power suits.

One Barbie became a chief executive officer and donned a straight skirt and power pink blazer. The first Black Barbie and the first Hispanic Barbie emerged in 1980.

In the 1990s, voters elected three women to the U.S. Senate. Barbie followed suit and in 1992 a Barbie for President doll arrived. The Dr. Jane Goodall Barbie in 2022 ventured out with binoculars. In 1997, Mattel created Barbie's friend with disabilities, Becky.

Barbie is the most diverse and inclusive doll line in the world, promoters tout.

A Virginia Angle

The exhibit spotlights several Barbie Virginians, including Katherine Johnson, a mathematician known as "the human computer" at NASA's Langley Research Center. Also Norfolk-born singer Ella Fitzgerald, including the actual steel helmet she wore on World War II tours. There's a George Washington Barbie and his actual silver shoe buckles are on loan from Mount Vernon.

"Barbie has always been more than a doll — she's a snapshot of what people wore, what they imagined and what they believed was possible," said Elizabeth Klaczynski, curator of the exhibition. "This exhibition invites visitors to enjoy themselves and create memories, while experiencing how pop culture can serve as both an illuminating time capsule and a vivid magnifying glass."

Wikipedia reports, "The original Barbie doll retailed for three dollars and her first range of clothes consisted of 22 ensembles priced at between $1 and $5 US dollars. Mattel designed Barbie to drive ongoing garment sales after the initial doll purchase."

An online search shows that Barbies today cost from $14 to $44, with original vintage dolls priced in the hundreds. Mattel has sold over a billion Barbie dolls.

The exhibit closes on Jan. 18, 2027. Visit www.virginiahistory.org.

Community News at a Glance



Photo contributed

In recognition of the Diamond Anniversary, the 10th, of Food For Neighbors, Dalia Palchik, Supervisor, Providence District and Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District Supervisor, presents Food For Neighbors Founder Karen Joseph (center) with a proclamation recognizing the organization's impact in collecting over 850,000 pounds of food, serving 12,000 students in 60 middle and high schools in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Arlington County and the city of Falls Church.

10th Anniversary of Food for Neighbors

Photo contributed

Hundreds of Northern Virginia neighbors gather Saturday during Make a Difference Day, sorting red bags of food to help local students learn and thrive. Unlike traditional pantries, Food for Neighbors focuses on feeding middle and high school students during weekends and holidays.

To learn more, visit Food for Neighbors' Get Involved page.

— Mercia Hobson, The Connection



— Mercia Hobson/The Connection

Photo contributed

In recognition of the Diamond Anniversary, the 10th, of Food For Neighbors, Dalia Palchik, Supervisor, Providence District and Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District Supervisor, presents Food For Neighbors Founder Karen Joseph (center) with a proclamation recognizing the organization's impact in collecting over 850,000 pounds of food, serving 12,000 students in 60 middle and high schools in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Arlington County and the city of Falls Church.



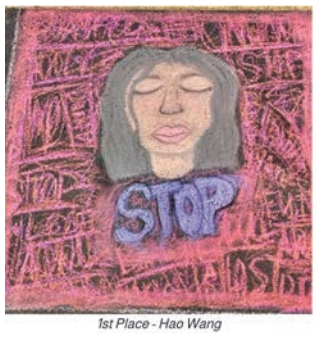
Photo contributed

Children's Coat Drive

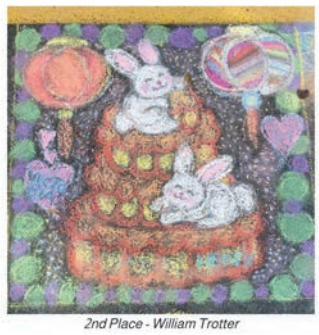
Supervisor Walter Alcorn and Heritage Fellowship Church in Reston are hosting a children's coat drive through Jan. 31, 2027. They need new or gently used winter coats and jackets in all children's sizes, from infants to teens, with high demand for elementary and middle school sizes (no mittens, hats, or scarves). Drop off donations in the collection box at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, 24/7. For large donations, drop off on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The center also houses the Reston District Police Station and is across the street from the Reston Regional Library.

Working with Heritage Fellowship Church, the coats that are collected will be donated to schools, Head Start programs, community and teen centers, local shelters, nonprofits, faith groups and other community organizations. Individual families who need children's coats may contact the Hunter Mill District office at 703-478-0283 for a referral on where to get them, as available.

— Mercia Hobson/The Connection



1st Place - Hao Wang



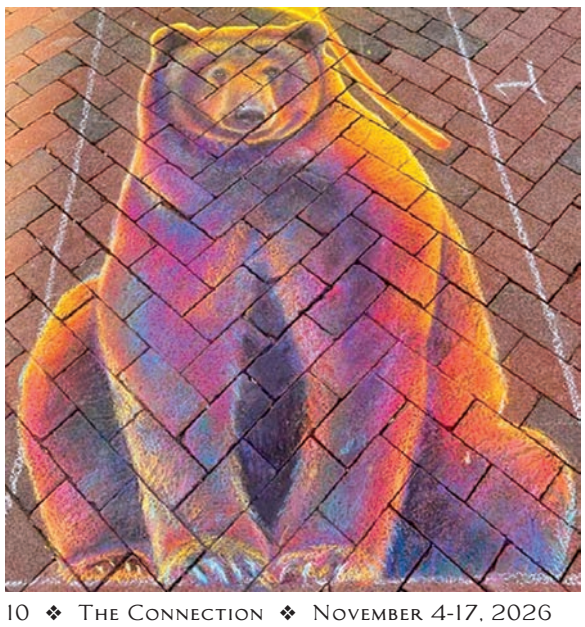
2nd Place - William Trotter



3rd Place - Anisha Shetty

Photo contributed

1st Place Brianna Camp



Families and Kids

ChalkFest at Reston Town Center Features Full Day of Creations

Professional Artists: Brianna Camp took 1st place, followed by Troy Wingert (2nd) and Katie Jones (3rd).

Amateur Artists: Suticha Mungkornkarn took 1st place, followed by Bob Welland (2nd) and Kat Young (3rd). Families & Kids: Hao Wang took 1st place, followed by William Trotter (2nd) and Anisha Shetty (3rd).



Screen grab via Instagram Town of Vienna

Costumed horses and riders participate in Halloween festivities in the Town of Vienna.

Town of Vienna 80th Anniversary Halloween Parade

The Town of Vienna posted that patriotism and hometown pride were on full display the evening of Oct 28 as "record-breaking crowds lined the streets for a spectacular procession of historic figures, colonial-era costumes, patriotic floats and plenty of spooky surprises."

— Mercia Hobson/The Connection

Songs, Dances, Humor and High School Cliques

Centreville High presents 'Mean Girls, the Musical.'

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection



Photos by Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

Portraying three friends gossiping are (from left) Luke Schmidt (Damian), Emma Cloudman (Janis) and Riglee Bryson (Cady).



Gigi Okey-Obeh, as Mrs. George (at left), watches daughter Regina (Kylie Henryhand) exercising in her room.

Homeschooled junior Cady Heron has just moved from Africa to a Chicago suburb with her biologist parents, and North Shore High is her first public school. Students Janis and Damian help her navigate the school, and then she joins the three most popular girls – manipulative Regina George, Gretchen and Karen – in The Plastics clique.

Cady eventually becomes its leader, ousting the previous one, Regina. The story then shows how the power in school cliques can play out amidst boyfriends, gossip, sabotage and redemption. And it's Centreville High's upcoming production, "Mean Girls, the Musical."

Show times are Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 12, 13, 14, at 7 p.m., plus a sensory-friendly performance Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $15, adults; and $12, students, senior citizens and military, at the door or via www.theatrecentreville.com.

It features a cast and crew of 40, and Director Patrick McGee chose this show "because of its theme of being inclusive and finding your own voice. And I wanted to give the students the chance to do a more contemporary musical. It's the most dance-heavy show we've done – with tap and modern Broadway-style numbers – and they're working really hard. It also has a lot of songs, so they're working on the harmonies about the characters' intentions while they're singing."

"It's exciting to see a movie I grew up watching come to life in the musical-theater world," he continued. "And coming from New York City, two of my professional colleagues were in the original Broadway cast, so it's nice to see my students doing likewise."

The scenes take place in the high-school classrooms, cafeteria and hallways, plus in Cady's and Regina's houses. "The hardest part is that it was written cinematically for a movie," said McGee. "So figuring out how to do it as a musical – with really quick changes from scene to scene – has been a big challenge, but a creative one."

He said audiences will like the score's contemporary-pop feel, and the story's iconic jokes, such as, "Stop making fetch happen," are still part of the show. "The nostalgia of the movie will be there, but with a twist," said McGee. "And because of some mature situations, this is PG-13, so parents are advised to use their own discretion. Our theme this season is 'You CAN sit with us,' unlike what the mean girls say in the show, so we welcome everyone to our performances."

Portraying Cady is freshman Riglee Bryson. "Cady's kind and courageous and not afraid to stand up to someone who's being mean to her or to others," said Bryson. "She's also adventurous, loves trying new things, is friendly and outgoing, and is happy to be in a new environment."

Bryson's delighted with her part because she relates to her character in many ways. "Cady's not afraid to be herself; and if people reject her, that's their problem," said Bryson. "She won't change herself to make them like her. I'm so happy Mr. McGee trusted me with this role and knew I could bring her to life."

Her favorite song is the show's finale, "I See Stars," which she sings, with the rest of the cast joining her at the end. "Cady's realizing what she's done to her friends to fit in with a group she shouldn't have, because it changed her," explained Bryson. "It's so wholesome, and the message is that being yourself is the most important thing, because the people who truly are your friends will find you and want to be around you."

Bryson said audiences will like the special effects, especially the lighting. "In the number, 'Whose House is This?' there's a part where the lights go down and then out – and come back up fast while Cady is drinking, mirroring what she's doing and how she feels," said Bryson. "People will also enjoy the dance numbers, which are flashy and entertaining, with things happening onstage the whole time."

Freshman Luke Schmidt, who plays junior Damian, calls his character "an art freak who loves painting, drawing and doing theatre and is the junior co-chair of the Student Activities Committee. He's gay and very flamboyant, enthusiastic and zesty. He's outgoing, but because he's gay, his only good friend is Janis."

Schmidt likes his role because it's his first comedic part in two years and, he said, "I'm really enjoying it. We're both extroverted and love being around people. He doesn't care about how others perceive him because he's his own person and is OK with who he is. So he also makes large, flashy movements with his body and shows his feelings through them."

Schmidt especially likes the number, "Stop," which he sings. "It's challenging for me because I'm having to learn tap dancing to do it while singing. But it's so much fun because it's a catchy song and a typical musical-theater number. After Cady joins The Plastics and starts becoming selfish and obsessed with popularity like them, I'm singing it to her and telling her to stop, chill out and think about what she's doing."

He said audiences will like that this show is campy while still relatable to high-school students. "It makes fun of how much people care about themselves in high school but does it in a cringy way that's also enjoyable to watch," said Schmidt. "A lot of love has been put into the set, and audiences will also love the choreography, the acting and the amazing voices singing."

Senior Gigi Okey-Eboh plays two roles – Regina's mom, Mrs. George, and Cady's mom, Mrs. Heron. "Their personalities are so different, so it's easy to tell them apart," said Okey-Eboh. "Several of the guys also play two roles. Regina's mom wants to really connect with her daughter, so she dresses like her, tries to hang out with her friends and uses the same lingo. But Cady's mom is more like the stereotypical, over-protective mom and is a little controlling."

Okey-Eboh said Regina's mom is like a caricature of a mother, so "she's really fun to portray. Most of her lines are meant to be funny and cringy; and stepping into that role while talking to girls my own age is a funny juxtaposition. But as Cady's mom, I'm strict and proper, and I tell my daughter what to do. And since her dad is more relaxed, working that dynamic and contrast between him and her mom gives us more space to have real conversations and tell more of the story."

Sung by student Divya Iyer, "Whose House Is This?" is Okey-Eboh's favorite song. "Divya's playing a nerdy student named Kevin G., who's crashed a party Cady's trying to throw behind Regina's back," explained Okey-Eboh. "Cady wants to get a boy named Aaron to like her, and Divya sings it at the party as if her character is really cool. It's a rap number and is so different from the other songs in the show because this one is hip-hop and less traditional musical theater."

Okey-Eboh said audiences will like how several of the actors make their characters so distinct and exaggerated to help get the story across and land the jokes easier. "People will also love the singing and dancing. There are a lot of solos, and the voices and crisp harmonies will absolutely blow everyone away."

Portraying Regina is senior Kylie Henryhand. "She's protective of her space and her status in the school," said Henryhand. "She's insecure and that's why she lashes out at others. I think, deep down, she does care about people. But since she's been the queen bee for so long, it's scarier for her to let it go than to just maintain it. She was the leader of The Plastics until she got replaced by Cady, so she's jealous of her and what she now has."

Henryhand, too, likes her part. "I get to do things I've never done before, such as singing while being lifted into the air," she said. "This role challenges me as an actor. I could play Regina as just one-dimensional and mean, but I wanted to go deeper with it and add subtle gestures and body language to show there's something more to her. She's always been rich, pretty and privileged and never had to work for anything. And I really like her songs, too."

Henryhand particularly likes the number, "World Burn," which she sings. "After Regina's kicked out of The Plastics, she's alone, angry and has lost everything," said Henryhand. "So she's saying, 'If I'm going down, I'm taking everyone with me.' I usually play harsh villains, so that song really connected with me. It's also difficult for me to sing because I'm an alto and it goes high up into the soprano range. But with things like that, it's more fulfilling to work hard and then finally get it right."

She said audiences will appreciate the show's humor and the overall talent of the cast and crew. "It's a difficult show for a high school to do, with lots of tricky song rhythms, fast-paced dances and tons of lines," explained Henryhand. "And I'm really proud of all my castmates who were able to pull it off and make this such an enjoyable show for people to see. I hope everyone likes it."

Entertainment

WEDNESDAYS NIGHTS

Open Game Nights. 6:30-9 p.m. At Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Come enjoy table tennis, bridge, mahjongg, arcade games, a sensory lab and more at the Old Firehouse. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

CONCERTS AT OLD BROGUE IRISH PUB

Each concert has two performances: 4:30–6:00 p.m.; 6:30–8:00 p.m. Meets at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA

Sunday, Nov. 8 – Infamous Holman Sisters
Sunday, Nov. 15 – Charlie Zahm & Tad Marks
Sunday, Nov. 22 – Piper Jones Band
Sunday, Nov. 29 – Kinnfolk
Sunday, Dec. 13 – Jody Marshall & Friends Annual Holiday Concert

NOV. 6-9

Cirque Italia. At Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Join this cast of acrobats, jugglers, aerialists, dancers, and clowns—a daring team of explorers who sail between worlds, diving deep beneath the waves and soaring high into the clouds. Cirque Italia's Water Circus is filled with nautical wonder, fabulous fountains, and theatrical spectacle that will dazzle and delight the young and the young at heart. Under the stunning White & Blue Tent:

- ❖ Nov. 6 – Friday: 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 7 – Saturday: 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 8 – Sunday: 1:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 9 – Monday: 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY/NOV. 8

AAUW McLean Area Branch Meeting. 2-4 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The 2026 Midterm Elections: Results, Implications, and the Political Road Ahead with speaker Stephen Farnsworth, Ph.D. Farnsworth will examine results of the 2026 midterm elections and their implications for the political landscape in the United States.

SUNDAY/NOV. 8

CROP Hunger Walk. 2-4:30 p.m. At Burke Presbyterian Church to Knollwood Church and return. Starting address: 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Community walk to raise awareness and funds to help fight local and global hunger. Website: Burkecropwalk.org.

NOV. 10 AND NOV. 18

Virtual Author Series. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Upstart Crow, Inc. and Fairfax County Public Library will present free virtual author conversations from Oct. 27 through Nov. 18. The programs are online, open to the public, and sponsored by the library. Registration is on the Fairfax County Public Library calendar. A link to join is sent to registrants.

Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m.: Valerie Tripp, author of the American Girl stories of Felicity, Josefina, Kit, Molly, and Maryellen, with Jennifer Disano. Registration opens at 6:30 p.m. on October 20.

Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m.: Jane Kamensky, president and CEO of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, on Declare: A Civic Gospel, with Ken Budd. Registration opens at 6:30 p.m. on October 28.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

25th Annual Jazz4Justice in Fairfax. 8-10 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Jazz4Justice, an award-winning partnership between the George Mason University Jazz Program and Northern Virginia's legal community. For a quarter century, Jazz4Justice has demonstrated the power of music to unite communities, raise awareness of the justice gap, and support access to civil legal services for those who cannot afford an attorney. The evening will feature the George Mason Jazz Program performing swinging classics from the golden age of the big band.

NOW THRU NOV. 24

Lions Citrus Sale. At American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. Fresh from Florida's Indian River Groves: Navel Oranges; Mandarins; Pink Grapefruit; Whitley's VA Peanuts. Pick up orders Dec 10-12, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or fruit shipped to you). Visit the website https://www.fairfaxlions.org/



The Judy Carmichael Trio will perform Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026 at the Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center in McLean.



The iMusical - Musical Comedy Improv will perform on Friday, Nov. 6, 2026 at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center in Fairfax.

NOW THRU NOV. 13

Sheehy Auto Stores Collecting Food for Local Pantries. Sheehy Auto Stores is collecting non-perishable food at dealerships across Maryland and Virginia. Donations will go to local food banks and pantries partnered with each dealership. Customers, employees and area residents can drop off food during regular business hours. No appointment is needed. Bring unopened, non-perishable food in cans, boxes or plastic jars, such as canned tuna and chicken, peanut butter, soups, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, rice and cereal. Find the nearest location at www.sheehy.com.

FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS

Operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority, these popular markets connect residents with local farmers and food producers at 10 convenient locations. Shop seasonal fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy, baked goods and artisanal products, while enjoying a vibrant, open-air market experience.

WEDNESDAYS

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon: April 22-Nov. 25, 8 a.m. - noon. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

SATURDAYS

Burke: Through Nov. 21, 8 a.m.-noon. VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway

Reston: Through Nov. 21, 8 a.m.-noon. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza

SUNDAYS

Lorton: May 3-Nov. 22, 8 a.m.-noon. VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd.

NOV. 4-29

McLean Art Society's "City Life" Exhibition and Members Show. 12 to 6 p.m. At McLean Art Gallery, 6224B Old Dominion Drive, McLean. "City Life" explores the energy, character, and beauty of urban living through original artwork inspired by city streets, architectural forms, vibrant neighborhoods, bustling cityscapes, and the quiet moments tucked within the rhythm of daily life. The exhibition celebrates the many ways artists interpret the movement, contrasts, and unexpected beauty of the city. Opening reception will be held Friday, Nov. 6 from 5-7 p.m. to meet the artists, enjoy conversation about summer-inspired artwork, and relax with live music, wine, and light refreshments.

FRIDAY/NOV. 6

iMusical – Musical Comedy Improv. 8 p.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. Part of the Old Town Hall Performance Series. A cast of singer-improvisers instantly creates a compelling new show with each performance, comprised of completely improvised scenes, lyrics and music, all inspired by a single audience suggestion!

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

Fall Festival Celebrating German Culture. 12:30 to 5 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Welcome the arrival of autumn with authentic food, vibrant Bavarian dancing, live music, and family-friendly activities. Alt Washingtonia, a local Bavarian dance group, returns for its third year to fill the air with music, dancing, cowbells, and alphorns. Hungry guests can visit Chef Sergio and Jeff, at the grill. Traditional German food will be available. From a meal of bratwurst, potato salad, sauerkraut, to snacks, pretzels. You can purchase meal tickets directly at the event. A German Crafts Tent also returns with a new outdoor market twist. Browse traditional crafts created by a German Swiss family. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, $4; ages 13 and older, $6. First responders, teachers and military (active and retired) $5. Seniors, age 65+, $5. www.fairfax-station-railroad-museum.org,

Entertainment



The McLean Antiques Show & Sale will be held Nov. 14-15, 2026 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.



A CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026 at Burke Presbyterian Church in Burke.

www.Facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

OFC IGNITE: Gobble Gobble Cooking Demo. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. At The Old Firehouse Center, McLean. Bring the family to OFC Ignite, a monthly family play experience featuring ping pong, board games, arcade games, refreshments, the Sensory Room and more. Enjoy a holiday-themed Saturday learning to make tasty seasonal treats and festive favorites. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

SUNDAY/NOV. 8

The Judy Carmichael Trio. 2 p.m. At McLean Community Theater's Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A stride pianist so accomplished that Count Basie gave her the nickname "Stride," Judy Carmichael is more than just a great jazz musician in the style of Fats Waller. She's an enchanting performer and sharp as a tack. Many will know her from 'Judy Carmichael's Jazz Inspired," and she brings the same charm, warmth and humor to the stage. The program will celebrate swing favorites of the American Songbook, from Gershwin and Cole Porter to Frank Loesser and Harold Arlen.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Cold War Museum Annual Gathering. 6 to 9 p.m. At Old Bust Head Brewery adjacent to the Cold War Museum at Vint Hill. During the gathering, Chris Pocock, the renowned British aviation historian and foremost authority on the U-2 program, will be honored. Chris is the author of three definitive histories of the U-2 aircraft, and the only foreign civilian ever to fly in the U-2, he has done more than anyone to preserve the U-2 program's story and legacy. Tickets are $80 and include dinner from Mission BBQ. The Cold War Museum will be opened for gathering attendees from 3:00 to 5:45 PM on Thursday November 12. During this time, Chris Pocock and Gary Powers Jr. will be at the museum to welcome guests and participate in a book signing for their assortment of books on the U-2 program and Cold War.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Celebrates 50 Years. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, Fairfax. This free event will include a screening of Facing the Falls, featuring a conversation with the film's star, Cara Yar Khan, plus a resource fair, workshops, door prizes, and much more!

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

"The Conductor" (Marin Alsop). 7 p.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. Part of the ARTScreen – Free Film Series. A riveting documentary about the former conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. One of the foremost conductors of our time, Marin Alsop is the first woman to serve as the head of major orchestras in the United States, South America, Austria, and Great Britain. Winner of the 2025 Golden Baton Award from the League of American Orchestras, Alsop is also the first and only conductor to receive a MacArthur Fellowship.



The Duo Mosaic Piano Duo will perform Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026 at the Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center in McLean.



A Free Symphony Concert will be held Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026 at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Clifton. (Pictured): Maestro Simeone Tartaglione conducts the CUA Symphony Orchestra.

NOV. 13-15 AND NOV. 20-22

Sterling Playmakers Present Camelot. At Theatre at Seneca Ridge Middle School, Sterling. Journey back in time to the majestic kingdom of CAMELOT, to King Arthur's court, and the knights of the round table. Packed with thrilling sword fights, pageantry, suspense and romance, this legendary Golden Age musical has enchanted generations of theatregoers.

Show times:
Friday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.
General Admission available at the door or online at https://www.sterlingplaymakers.org/tickets

FALL BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville.
Friday, Nov. 13, 1-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m
Sunday, Nov. 15, 12 p.m.-5 p.m.
Bag sale on Sunday; fill provided grocery bag with books and DVDs for $10.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Story Worx Book Festival. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, McGuire Woods, Lorton. They are gathering the brightest minds in literature for a day of panels, sales, and live readings. The Workhouse Arts Center is a hub of creativity — home to 80+ artists and several galleries — making it the perfect backdrop to promote your work to a passionate audience. Email marketing@workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Health Fair. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. At James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. A free health fair offering a variety of services, information, and resources for Mason residents including flu vaccines, hearing and vision screenings, child dental screenings, HIV tests, Hepatitis C tests, and more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Wellness Expo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, Vienna. Vienna Business Association's fourth annual Wellness Expo features 50 local wellness vendors and activities for all ages. Explore local wellness resources, connect with health professionals, and gain practical tools for maintaining wellness. Meet local businesses in the wide range of the wellness industry to include physical, mental, and spiritual. Families are encouraged to attend, as a variety of activities have been designed for children to help make wellness fun and engaging for all ages. The Vienna Singing Princesses will be wandering the event and offering face painting as well. The event also emphasizes community connection, providing opportunities for attendees to meet neighbors, discover local resources, and build supportive wellness networks. Visit www.gethealthyvienna.org or contact the Vienna Business Association.

NOV. 14-15

McLean Antiques Show & Sale. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Celebrate the 50th Annual Antiques Show & Sale at McLean Community Center, featuring dozens of dealers offering fine antiques, art, furniture, jewelry, collectibles and unique finds from around the world. Enjoy the onsite café and a free anniversary lecture by interior designer Josh Hildreth at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at The Alden Theatre.

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

Free Symphony Concert. 4-5:30 p.m. At St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Experience the Catholic University of America Symphony Orchestra in a free concert featuring Dukas' Sorcerer's Apprentice, Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto, and Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony. All are welcome! Free-will offering is appreciated. Website: www.st-andrew.org/concerts

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

Amadeus Concerts presents Sasha Beresovsky & Friends. 4 p.m. Preconcert talk at 3:15 p.m.; post-concert reception with the artists to follow. At St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Passion in Full Color. A piano/violin/cello trio performs classics from the trio repertoire, mixing well-loved pieces by Maurice Ravel and Robert Schumann with rediscovered French female composer Mel Bonis. Free for children and active military, $25 1/2 priced ticket for young adults 19 - 29, $50 general admission ticket. More Info and tickets: www.amadeus-concerts.com

Legals | **Legals**

On November 19, 2026 at 7 pm, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks) Board will consider a new regulation pursuant to Section 15.2-5704(18) of the Virginia Code governing the use of Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park (W&OD Park), which contains the 45-mile W&OD Trail and is owned by NOVA Parks and located in: Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudon County, City of Falls Church, Town of Vienna, Town of Herndon, Town of Leesburg, and Town of Purcellville. The regulation addresses hours of operation, assembly of more than 25 people, pets, obeying posted signs, reckless behavior and prohibits certain devices from being used in W&OD Park. A copy of the full text of the regulation can be found in the Office of the Town or County Clerk of all the jurisdictions where the trail is located.

Employment | **Employment**

Contract Administrator
Wrldwd Mssn Crtcl (Chntlly, VA) to be rspnsbl for crdntng Cnstrctn Cntrct Admin; sprtng vrs agrmnt exctns spnnng dvlpmnt thrgh prcnstrctn, cnstrctn & clst phss; dvlpng an intrnl cntrct mngmnt prcss; prvdng strtgc prcrmnt & cntrct advc, srvng ky accot clnts; sppртng the dvlpmnt & implmntn of cntrctng strtgs for mjr cnstrctn prjcts mdls; dvlpng cntrct strctrs for prmry dlvry strtgs. Mst hv Mstr's dgr in Law or a drctly rltd fld. Mst hv 2 yrs of prr wrk exp in the pstn offrd or rltd rvwng prcrmnt cntrcts. Mst knw (thrgh acdmc trnng or wrk exp) mngng dprtmntl bdgts, ky prformnc indctrs, & wrkflw prcsss; ovrsng oprtnl dcumnttn & rprtng; admnstrng cmmrcl & oprtnl cntrcts w/ 3rd prty spplrs & srvc prvdrs, crdntng vndr & trd rltnshps; ensrng cmplnc w/ cntrctl trms, srvc lvl expcttns, & intrnl plcs; ldng the implmnttn of fctry prgrms, prfrmnc anlyss, & oprtnl inttvs sppртng cstmr rtntn & lng-trm bus grwth. Apply https://tinyurl.com/duvj2ve7

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Community News at a Glance



Photo by RCS Photography

he Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund Inc. celebrates eight Northern Virginia Community College and 28 George Mason University scholarship recipients at GMU Merten Hall on Oct. 26.

Celebrating the 36 Recipients of the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund Inc.

Organization helps local students

The Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund Inc. (EIN 52-1300501), a Great Falls-based nonprofit, recently awarded 36 scholarships totaling more than $175,000 to local students attending Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University.

The organization recognized the recipients during a celebration held Oct. 26 at George Mason University's Merten Hall.

"This year the organization gave out 36 scholarships totaling over $175,000," said Connie Colabatistto, the scholarship fund president.

The fund's mission is to raise money for yearly scholarships that help Northern Virginia students complete their educational goals in a financially prudent manner. The nonprofit prioritizes non-traditional students, including first-generation college students, adults pursuing higher education for the first time, and students in the Mason LIFE program, which supports individuals with intellectual disabilities.

To learn more about the organization, visit womensclubgfsf.org, and to donate, visit https://www.womensclubgfsf.org/donate.

— Mercia Hobson/The Connection



Photo by RCS Photography

At the recipient celebration on Oct. 26, Crystal Forson shares how receiving a four-year scholarship from the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund made a difference in her life and allowed her to pursue a master's degree.

Former Centreville High Teacher Writes New Book

Former Centreville High teacher Susan Coryell has just released her latest book, "Old School: Teaching Back in the Day," a 30-year memoir, with many pages dedicated to her 11 years at the school from 1968-2001.

This and all her books may be accessed via her website, www.susancoryellauthor.com, or on Amazon.

Photos by Shirley Ruhe/The Connection



Angelica Martin and Selbin Castro, co-managers of the newly opened Surfside taco stand at Chesterbrook Shopping Center.

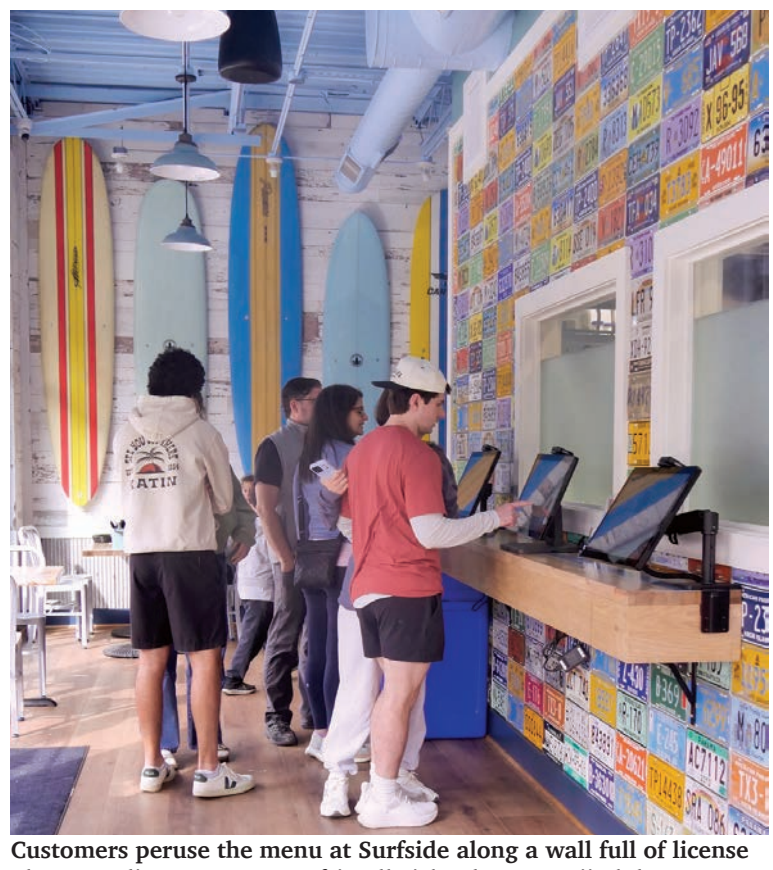


Seven-year-old Caleb says he is helping his mother Angelica Martin "a little bit" at Surfside by cleaning a few tables.

New Island-Themed Taco 'Stand' Opens



Surfside taco stand opens October 22 at Chesterbrook Shopping Mall on Old Dominion Drive.



Customers peruse the menu at Surfside along a wall full of license plates reading "St Maarten-friendly island," "Hawaii-aloha state," and "Aruba-one happy island."

By Shirley Ruhe
The Connection

Selbin Castro is calling out names as quickly as the bright green bags are filled with orders at Surfside Taco Stand. The co-manager Angelica Martin is handling the payment and delivery of the bags to the correct customer. She says the biggest challenge so far has been finding the best way to keep the service quick and have great customer service.

Surfside Taco Stand opened at Chesterbrook Shopping Mall on Oct. 22, and Martin says it was a great opening and a really busy weekend. She described Surfside as a place where everything is homemade. "Everything is made here fresh every day by our Mexican chef Diego Rivera."

Martin had just finished a St. Lucia taco with fried shrimp and creamy slaw. "So good" although her very favorite is the Maui taco with grilled fresh barramundi, black bean corn salsa and lime crema on corn tortillas.

Although the theme of the restaurant is island-related and many of the choices include fish, she says the customer favorite so far has been the Birria which is braised beef brisket with Monterey jack cheese, sweet onion and cilantro.

You can sit at the tables by the wall (inside) with hanging surfboards or on stools by the front windows or at the tables on the outside patio. And while you are tasting your quesadilla, burrito or taco, or munching on street corn served with a toothpick you can guess how many miles to the island destinations that are listed on a large road sign inside the front door.

Today Martin's seven-year-old son Caleb is roaming the store "helping a little bit" by cleaning a few tables and putting drinks in the refrigerator. He had just devoured an egg burrito which he declared "good with rice, eggs, cheese and a lot of vegetables like broccoli and carrots" and says he is having fun helping his mom.

Surfside has several locations in the metropolitan area but this is the first to open in Northern Virginia. This location is open on the weekends until 2 a.m. Martin says, "We are hoping to attract people from nightclubs around here, and there is a university nearby." She says everyone in this neighborhood has been very nice.

A grand opening is planned on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 11 am-3 pm with special activities and samples of food. Surfside is located at 6218 Old Dominion Drive in McLean.

Surfside Grand Opening Party

Live music, face painting, scratch offs,
free samples and more

Date: Saturday, Nov. 7
Time: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Address: Chesterbrook Shopping Plaza
6218 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, Va. 22101



Kenny Lourie's column will return in the Nov. 18 editions.

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