

Seahawks Sweep McLean

SPORTS, PAGE 16

**South Lakes senior
Kristina Brownell
finished with a team-
high 13 kills against
McLean on Oct. 19.**

Documentary on Reston Ready For Screening

NEWS, PAGE 3

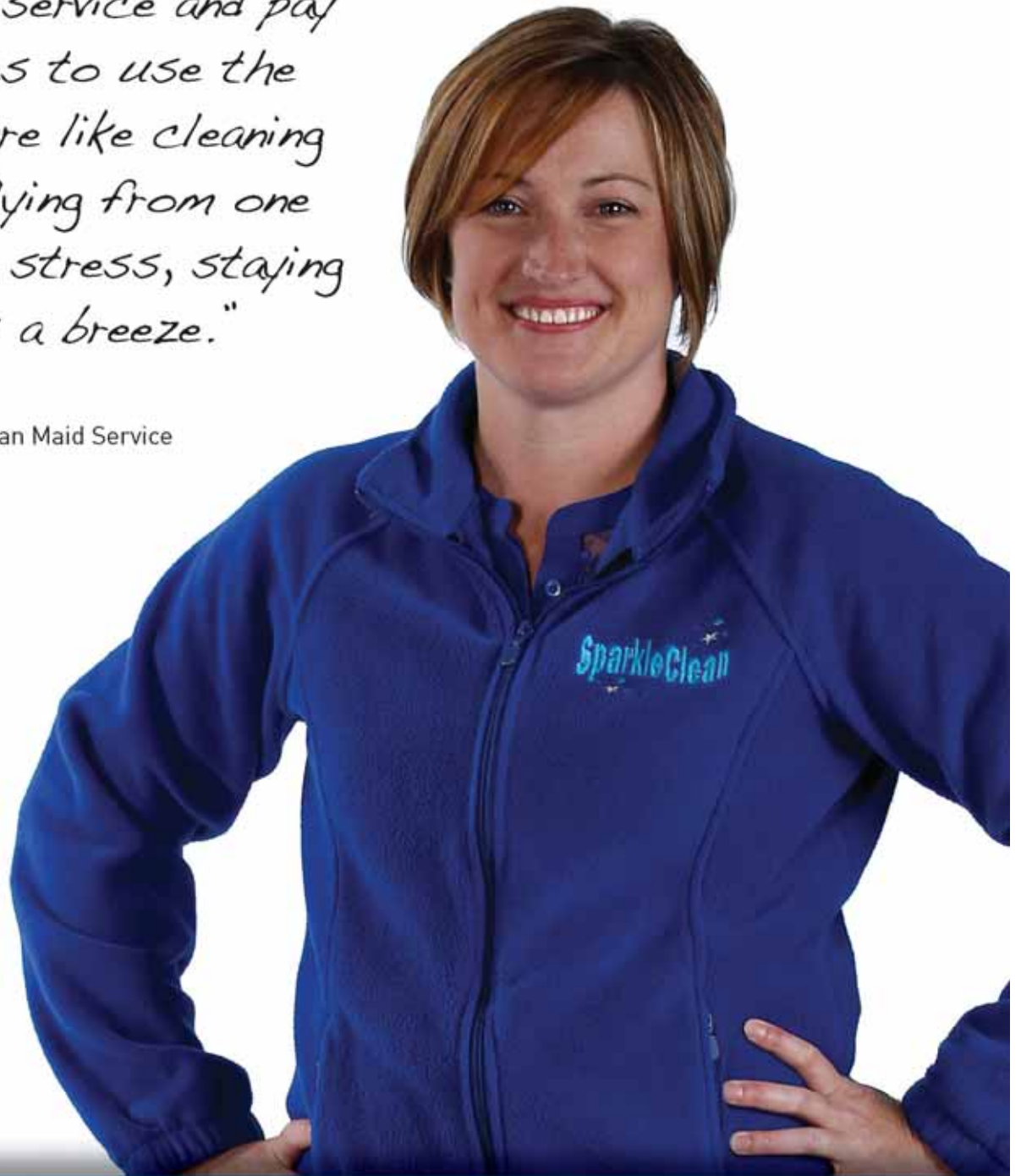
Meet the Candidates for Supervisors, School Board

NEWS, PAGES 12-14

— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

"I own a small maid service and pay for all my employees to use the Express Lanes. We are like cleaning superheroes now, flying from one home to the next, no stress, staying on schedule, it's a breeze."

- Sarah P.
Owner, SparkleClean Maid Service
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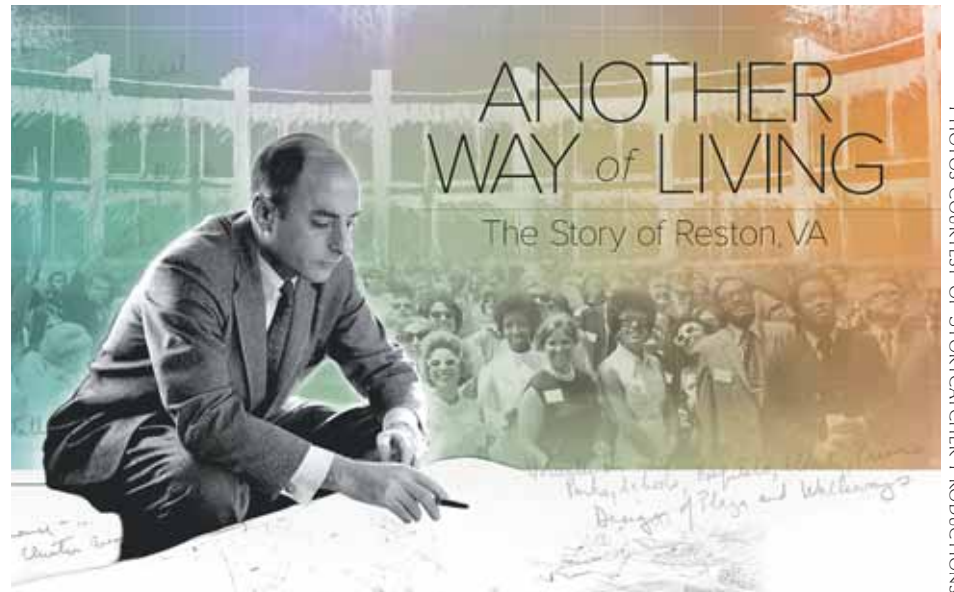
See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Sarah's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.



A movie still showing Reston founder Robert E. Simon, Jr. The documentary project “Another Way of Living: The Story of Reston, VA” will show the development of Reston. Reston area residents assisted with this project, produced by Rebekah Wingert-Jabi’s Reston based film company, Storycatcher Productions.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STORYCATCHER PRODUCTIONS

A film poster for the documentary, Another Way of Living: The Story of Reston, VA. Filmmaker, Rebekah Wingert-Jabi is appreciative of the fact that she had access to many sources, such as founder Robert Simon, as well as designers of Reston Town Center and more.

Documentary on Reston Ready For Screening

Reston filmmaker and team complete documentary.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

As Reston mourns the recent loss of its founder, Robert E. Simon Jr., award-winning director Rebekah Wingert-Jabi hopes his legacy will live on through the documentary project, “Another Way of Living: The Story of Reston, VA.” As a filmmaker, Wingert-Jabi is appreciative of the fact that she had access to many primary sources, including Simon, as well as members of the early staff, designers of Reston Town Center and more.

“I grew up in Reston and am raising my daughter here,” said Wingert-Jabi. “I care deeply about this community. What stands out most to me here is our sense of community. I think an important part of continuing that special sense is to be reminded of our unique history and all the effort that has gone into preserving our sense of community and making it stronger. I think this

film plays a role in that preservation. I’m particularly gratified that we have hours of footage with Bob Simon and that in the film we hear him explaining, in his own words, his vision and hopes for Reston.”

THE DOCUMENTARY makes its film festival debut at the Virginia Film Festival in Charlottesville on Nov. 7. Wingert-Jabi’s film company, Storycatcher Productions, is based in Reston. Wingert-Jabi began her film career in 2000, and has produced, directed, and edited film and television.

“When I moved back to Reston as an adult in 2009, residents were preparing for the 50th anniversary. It was the perfect chance for me to dig into the history of my community and its founder. As a filmmaker, documentary was the natural way for me to explore this history. One of my first steps

was to interview Bob,” said Wingert-Jabi.

Production for the movie began in September 2012, and final edits occurred in October of this year. The production team had a work-in-progress screening in April 2014 as part of Reston’s 50th anniversary celebration, and made significant changes to the film thereafter. Wingert-Jabi said a challenge for the project was condensing 50 years of history into one film and telling a story with many contributors (multiple developers, generations of residents, various businesses and organizations) in a way that feels intimate.

The documentary explores Simons unique vision for American life. While 1950s post-war suburban sprawl prioritized single-family homes, Simon dreamed “another way of living” that valued community, nature and social equity. Simon set out to build a suburban town that integrated citizens across

racial and economic divides.

Funding and support for this film project came from the Reston Community Center, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Reston Association, and Reston Museum. The production team comprised area residents including John Farbrother, Victoria Wingert, Mahrya MacIntire, Ross Kirby, and Brain Scarbrough.

A native Restonian, Scarbrough received a B.A. from The Boston Conservatory where he studied music theory and composition. He has composed for many different ensembles including the Reston Community Orchestra (RCO). “Another Way of Living: The Story of Reston, VA” is his first film score experience.

THE FILM will have its premiere on Nov. 7 at the Virginia Film Festival presented by the University of Virginia. The screening will be followed by a conversation with Urban Land Institute Global CEO, Patrick Phillips; Virginia State Senator and Reston resident, Janet Howell; Reston’s first salesman, Chuck Veatch; the film director, Rebekah Wingert-Jabi and the University of Virginia’s Chair of the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, Tim Beatley. For more information on the movie, visit www.anotherwayoflivingfilm.com.

“I’m particularly gratified that we have hours of footage with Bob Simon and that in the film we hear him explaining, in his own words, his vision and hopes for Reston.”

— Rebekah Wingert-Jabi

Lake Anne Elementary Students Walk, Bike to School

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, Lake Anne Elementary School participated in Walk to School Day. In celebration of Reston’s status as a Bronze Level Bicycle-Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists, the Reston Pedestrian and Bicycling Advisory Committee coordinated with all eight of Reston’s elementary schools, as well as Langston Hughes Middle School, to participate in International Walk to School Day.



Students at Lake Anne Elementary School participated in Walk to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 7.

There was a friendly competition between the elementary schools to see who can get



Students walked and biked to school on Wednesday, Oct. 7 as part of Lake Anne Elementary School’s Walk to School Day.

the students walking to school, as well as the highest percentage of school population.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Reston Association 2016-2017 Budget

November 2, 2015 at 6 p.m.

The RA Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2016-2017 biennial budget for the association. Members can access a copy of the latest draft budget on RA's website, www.reston.org.



BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to north@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Candidate Forum to Meet the Candidates. 2-4 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road. Meet candidates for Hunter Mill District Supervisor and School Board Member. Candidate for Reston District Supervisor is incumbent Catherine M. Hudgins (D). Candidates for School Board Member are Pat M. Hynes (incumbent) and Mark S. Wilkinson. All certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts have been invited. A question-and-answer session will allow interaction with the candidates. www.lwv-fairfax.org. league@lwv-fairfax.org.

TUESDAY/OCT. 27

October Network Night. 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Melting Pot, 11730 Plaza America Drive, Suite 100, Reston. Marketing event for members to introduce other members to their business. \$20/\$30. 703-707-9045 or ashleigh@restonchamber.org.

INOVA Blood Drive. 12-7 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery St, Reston, VA 20190. Appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or <http://www.inova.org/donateblood> for on-site registration.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

Business Education Series Workshop: Social Media Timesavers. 8:30-10 a.m. Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. Participants will learn tips for

saving up to ten hours a week managing your social media, simple ways to find usable, relevant content for your posts, best practices for creating content throughout your day, what an effective editorial calendar looks like, apps to help you schedule and manage your social media. Free to members of chamber or \$15. <http://www.restonchamber.org/events/Business-Education-Series-Workshop-Social-Media-Timesavers-2699/> details.

DEADLINE FRIDAY/NOV. 6

Best of Reston Awards. The awards honor individuals, businesses, and civic/community organizations that have demonstrated significant contributions to the greater Reston/Dulles community in their commitment to community service, excellence and involvement. Presented by The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Cornerstones. <http://www.restonchamber.org/events/Nominations-Deadline-for-the-25th-Annual-Best-of-Reston-Awards-2715/> details.

FRIDAY/NOV. 6

Annual Prospective Member Breakfast. 8-10 a.m. Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Interested in joining? Orientation is the best way to understand how to maximize your ROI on Reston Chamber Membership. The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce is the largest regional chamber in the Washington, D.C. region celebrating a 22 percent increase in new membership over last year. Free. toddr@restonchamber.org or 703-707-9045.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Maid Bright Helping Syrian Refugees

In August of 2015, Best of Reston award winner Maid Bright donated 14 tons of food and supplies to a Syrian refugee camp in Diyarbakir, Turkey, in an effort to support refugees and ease their lives. They thank everyone who helped deliver these goods to those in need.



“Best Fish & Chips outside the UK”
 – Tripadvisor, May 2015

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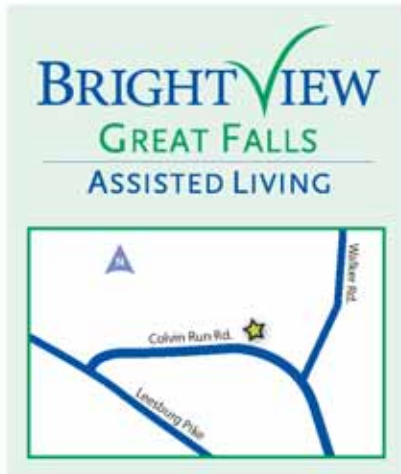
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Please call either Carolyn or Joanna to schedule your personal visit.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left — Irene Ward, LearningRx Reston, center director; Dr. Ken Gibson, founder of LearningRx program; Maureen Loftus, executive director LearningRx Reston.

Reston Brain Training Center Receives National Recognition

Maureen Loftus, executive director of LearningRx brain training centers of Reston and Vienna received the national 2015 Community Impact Award for being one of the top 10 LearningRx brain centers in the United States and was recognized for the 2015 Outstanding Customer Service Award by LearningRx's corporate offices in Colorado Springs, Colo. LearningRx of Vienna is also celebrating their five-year anniversary.

For more information, go to www.learningrx.com. "As someone that has suffered a brain injury, I know that brain training can be life changing, whether you're just looking for some improvement in school, or whether you've been affected by brain trauma," said Maureen Loftus, executive director of LearningRx of Reston and Vienna. "We love being part of the Reston community and being part of our students' achievements," said Loftus.

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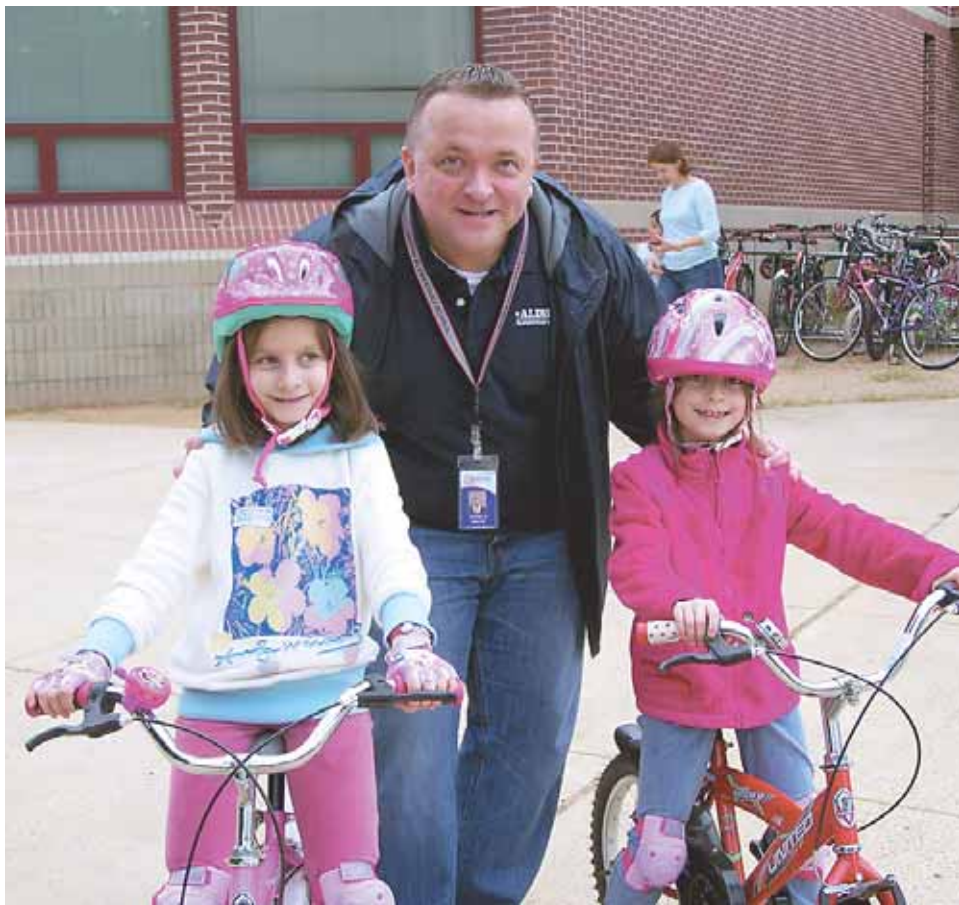


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Walking, Biking to Aldrin Elementary

Principal Shane Wolfe from Aldrin Elementary greets students on bikes who participated in International Walk to School Day. Many Aldrin students walked and biked to school to express how important physical fitness is to them.

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OPINION

Election Coverage for an Informed Vote

Find stories, candidate questionnaires, letters and photos.

This week and next week are the last two publication dates before Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Our pages and website are full of coverage,

letters, candidate questionnaires and photos of the campaign trail in an effort to help voters decide to vote and which candidates hold views closest to their own.

Virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. Find previous coverage and complete coverage on our website www.connectionnewspapers.com, click on Elections. Because many districts in Virginia resemble spiky amoebas, it is sometimes difficult to include every race that might

impact a town or community in the print editions. Please take the time to vote, it matters. In Virginia, key races that have affected policy have been decided by fractions of one percent. Your vote can make a difference.

We will not be endorsing in any race this year.

I'm keeping this short to allow more room for letters to the editor.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Police Commission Delivers Roadmap To Accountability and Transparency

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

The Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission formally delivered its final report to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.

The Board created the Commission in March after a wave of public outrage over the police shooting of unarmed John Geer in the doorway of his Springfield home and the 18 months of the Police Department's absolute stonewalling which followed, as the Police Chief refused to name the shooter or explain what happened. It took a suit by Geer's family and a judge's order to finally get the Police to open up. The Geer case was hardly the first questionable killing by the 1400-officer force long known for its lack of transparency and accountability.

At first blush, the 36-member Commission did not seem to be a body likely to arrive at coherent, thorough recommendations, much less do so unanimously. A third of

its members were active duty (including reps of five police unions) or retired police; the rest included local media, community and civic organization members, lawyers, two state legislators, a close friend of John Geer and the father of another citizen killed under suspicious circumstances. Their unanimously adopted report is, in fact, a formula for transformative change of the Fairfax County Police if adopted by the Board and if fully implemented.

The report proposes policies of transparency in place of secrecy and stresses the role of policing in a democratic, community-oriented framework.

An overhaul of policies requiring more restraint, de-escalation and less lethal force is central to the report. Recognizing that mentally ill people make up a large proportion of those detained,



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

jailed or killed by police, the report also recommends deploying trained teams of officers to respond to tense situations and diverting such persons to expanded treatment facilities rather than to jail.

A key section of the report calls for the appointment of an Independent Police Auditor responsible directly to the Board of Supervisors.

The Auditor will monitor and review police department investigations of police-involved killings or serious injury to civilians. In addition, the Commission recommends a Civilian Review Panel be created to review allegations of police abuse of power or misconduct. Such oversight operates in nearly all large jurisdictions in the U.S. See full report of the Commission at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

We Can Do Better Opposition to I-66 tolls inside the Beltway.

BY STATE SEN. DAVID
MARSDEN (D-37)

DEL. DAVID BULOVA (D-37)

Having both been raised here in Northern Virginia, we have seen first-hand how the chronic congestion problems on I-66 have affected our economy and quality of life. Like most people in our area, this is personal. Traffic on I-66 has stolen countless hours that could have been spent with family or at work. That is why we were proud to support the bipartisan transportation package passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2013

that is now generating billions for infrastructure improvements in our region.

However, the way revenue is generated does matter, which is why we feel compelled to express our current opposition to the Virginia Department of Transportation's plan to toll I-66 inside the Beltway.

While legitimate concern has been raised with regard to the cost to commuters, there is a much deeper principal at stake. No one likes the idea of tolls. But like water and sewer service, there should at least be a strong link between who pays and the services delivered.

The idea of tolling I-66 inside

the Beltway without a solid plan for creating new infrastructure that directly benefits the toll payers simply fails to meet this basic test. Likewise, we are concerned that this project violates the concept of first do-no-harm.

A recent study by Fairfax County found that while those using parallel roads won't be affected in the direction of rush hour traffic, those who go the opposite direction will see significant increases in traffic. Even if this can be absorbed in the short-term, we have serious doubts about whether this is sustainable in the long-term. The days of one-way rush hour traffic are quickly going the way of the dino-

saur as areas like Tysons, Herndon, Chantilly, Reston, and Centreville continue to develop.

VDOT's actions mean that those who are using these local roads will see their commutes lengthened. This will include neighborhoods both inside and outside of the Beltway.

We applaud VDOT for coming up with some promising and creative solutions — including the active traffic management system recently implemented outside of the Beltway. But the current plan to toll I-66 inside the Beltway without increased capacity is the wrong way to go. It is a matter of principal.

Reston
CONNECTION

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OPINION

Drawing the Lines

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE
(D-36)



Every decade after the federal census, state legislatures are responsible for drawing the boundaries of the House of Representatives and the House of Delegates and State Senate districts. By Supreme Court decisions districts are to be equal in population (slight deviations allowed) and are to provide equal protection of the law for all persons. Even with these limitations, drawing legislative district lines is a division of power as well as population. Going back to Elbridge Gerry in 1812, redistricting has been recognized as a political exercise as well as legislative responsibility when one of the districts proposed looked like a salamander, hence the term gerrymandering.

COMMENTARY

Virginia's redistricting in 2011 provided the Republican majority in the House and Senate an opportunity to expand their numbers but also left many people feeling that they were not treated fairly. A challenge to the congressional districts resulted in a federal court finding the districts violated the rights of minorities, especially in the 3rd Congressional district that packed African Americans in a district extending from Richmond to Norfolk albeit rather narrow in some places. While such a district virtually ensured the election of an African American congressman, Bobby Scott, it at the same time may have limited African Americans to a single district. When the General Assembly was unable or unwilling to redraw the lines, the federal courts took the responsibility with an expert consultant who is expected to complete the task by the end of October.

Presently there are several lawsuits that are challenging the House of Delegates districts on the

same arguments used against the Congressional districts. It is likely that these districts will be thrown out as well, and I and the other delegates elected in these districts on November 3, 2015, would have to run again in 2016 and to get back on schedule again in 2017. This is the same series of events that happened over unconstitutional districts in 1981, 1982, and 1983. Once again it is unlikely that the House of Delegates will be able to redraw the lines that might result in unseating incumbents, and the court will need to do the job for the House.

Drawing district lines is the greatest conflict of interest that legislators face. The natural tendency is self-preservation and to hold onto power. That is why I introduced legislation in 1982 to establish a nonpartisan redistricting commission in Virginia, the first such proposed in the Commonwealth. It has never passed, but the most recent challenges in the state on this issue as well as an increasing number of states that are going to commissions may propel it forward. OneVirginia2021 (<http://onevirginia2021.org/>) is a group actively working to make it happen in Virginia.

I recently attended a conference, Redistricting Reform: Mapping Our Future, sponsored by Common Cause and the George Washington University School of Law. I was impressed with the amount of research and study that has been done on the process and the methodologies that have been developed to measure partisan gerrymandering. Under the current system, there are only 38 of 100 House and 23 of 40 Senate seats challenged in the current elections because districts are gerrymandered to determine the outcome. There is adequate information available for Virginia to do a fairer, less partisan job of drawing the lines.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Appeal to Save the Trees

To the Editor:

Why are beautiful, healthy trees being cut down all over the Headquarters of the Reston Association? This includes flowering cherry trees. They say they are renters and are pow-

erless to stop this, yet, they tell homeowners (rightfully so) they can't cut trees down, without their permission.

Lawrence Uman
Reston

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THE CONNECTION
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Getting In: The Private Schools Admissions Process

Navigating the application and increasing the chance of getting an acceptance letter.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Although the school year just started, the application process for the 2016-2017 school year is underway at more than 80 local independent schools. From open houses, school tours and applicant interviews to transcripts, essays and teacher recommendations, the process can be arduous, say parents, especially with application fees that can soar higher than \$100 a piece.

Making sure a child's abilities and interests are in line with a school's offerings and requirements can narrow down the list.

"Parents need to be realistic about their child's strengths and weaknesses and learning style," said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment management, Norwood School in Potomac, Md. "Have an open and honest conversation with schools during the application process. Schools will tell you whether they can or cannot meet any special needs your child might have."

ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS say that practical considerations of all sorts should help parents whittle down their list of schools.

"Do they want a big or small school? How far are they willing to travel each day? Does the school offer academic support if their child needs it? Can they afford their tuition?" asks Mary Herridge, director of enrollment management, The Madeira School in McLean.

Getting to know a school's culture and paying attention to the school's mission can also help families choose a school.

"School structure, single sex versus co-ed, dress code, religious affiliation, teaching pedagogy and parent involvement all influence school culture," said Mulligan. "Each school has a distinct and intentional mission statement. Sometimes that distinctiveness may be subtle so parents should also look at school mottos, belief or promise statements and portraits of a graduate, too."

An example, says Herridge, is a parent who values being deeply involved in helping a child with their homework. "As a school we value the student doing their own homework, managing their homework and coming to the teacher and self-advocating if they need help," she said. "We encourage parental participation, but in high school we wouldn't expect a parent to sit and help with every single aspect of their homework. We can have that conversation early on and

decide that this is not a good fit.

"If they come to a school with a rigorous academic program, are [parents] going to be OK with their student being really challenged in class and having that reflected on their transcripts?" she continued.

"Nowadays, in school literature and marketing materials, all schools say they're good at certain things and offer certain things like small class sizes and low student teacher ratios, but nothing can replace going and sitting in a classroom and seeing how the teachers teach and how the students react with one another," said Herridge. "Talk to the math teacher. Have a conversation with the coach."

If a school boasts hands-on learning, are students engaged in experiments in a science class or are they sitting behind desks and looking at a chalkboard?

A tour, Herridge said, is crucial for students and parents. "When they see other students and meet the teacher they'll be able to say, 'Yes this is a good place for me,' or '... we can take this school off our list because it doesn't make sense for our family.'"

"Most tours will give you an 'aha' moment that clarifies why independent education is worth the investment," added Benita Cathey, director of admissions, Grace Episcopal

School in Alexandria.

Patti Culbreth, head of school, Grace Episcopal School, said, "A look at the curriculum to include the 'specials' offered will give you an overview of the opportunities for your child."

Delve deeper than a tour organized by the school, however. "Talk to parents [of students] who already attend the school," Mulligan. "If you don't know anyone, ask the admissions office to provide a few families you can contact."

EVEN AFTER A FAMILY has whittled down their list of potential schools, the road to admission can still be long. Competition can be fierce, with many schools receiving 10 applications for every available slot. Most require not only an application, but test scores, essays, interviews and letters of recommendation, a process that can baffle many parents.

In preparation for the interview, admissions officials suggest applicants think about their own interests and attitudes toward academics.

"It's a good idea for a student to reflect on what they love about school, what they like to do outside of the classroom and how they see themselves as part of the school



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Independent schools such as St. Stephen's & St. Agnes in Alexandria require an extensive application process aimed at familiarizing the applicant and the school with one another.

community," said Jon Kunz, director of middle and upper school admission, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "We don't approach it as an interview. It's more of a one-on-one conversation. We want them to be themselves and to be comfortable."

Students should use specific and concrete examples to demonstrate passions and talents. "For example, if a student is passionate about science they might say, 'I started this project on my own and created this amazing invention.' That helps us see their passion," said Linda Stratton director of communications, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes

School. "We're looking for students who are intellectually curious and excited about taking advantage of the opportunities here," Kunz added. "We're looking for students who demonstrate a strong sense of character who are respectful and ... who care about the world around them."

Admissions officials also want to evaluate whether applicants have the potential to meet the school's expectations, and scrutinize scores on tests such as the SSAT (Secondary School Admissions Test) and ISEE (Independent School Entrance Examination) SEE ADMISSIONS, PAGE 17



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Candidates for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Sharon Bulova (D)

Incumbent

Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 67

Family: Married. Between my husband and I we have: four adult children and seven grandchildren.

Education: AAS Degree in Business Management from Northern VA Community College, attended business classes, UVA evening program, previously held Real Estate license

Offices held, dates:

Elected Braddock (then called Annandale) District Supervisor in 1987. In February 2009 elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Re-elected in 2011.

Occupation and relevant experience: I am a full time Chairman. Prior to elected office I held positions in business.

Community involvement: I came to local government through my work as Civic Association president of Kings Park West. I have been a member of the Annandale Rotary, how serving as an honorary member. I am a founder of Faith Communities in Action and collaborated on two community history projects: A Look Back at Braddock and the Asian American History Project.

Website: <http://sharonbulova.com/>

Email address: sharonbulova@gmail.com

Twitter handle: [http://twitter.com/sharonbulova](https://twitter.com/sharonbulova)

Name three favorite endorsements: FEA (Fairfax Education Association), Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I love local government and feel strongly about community engagement. In my roles as Braddock Supervisor and now Chairman I have been committed to making sure our community is at the table with local government to participate in resolving issues and addressing our challenges. A major challenge right now is the sluggish recovery we are experiencing from the Great Recession. My goal is to strike the right balance between maintaining taxes that are affordable to our residents while investing what is needed to ensure a world class school system, safe streets and neighborhoods, compassionate human services, a clean environment and quality of life services like libraries and our fantastic park system.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have the experience, the commitment and the enthusiasm to serve as Fairfax County's chairman. I believe I have the collaborative skill set needed to lead our Board and our community on an even, positive course.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Education continues to be my highest priority. It is however, not my only priority. It is critical that we continue to be the safest jurisdiction of our size in the U.S. and that we maintain the quality of life our residents value. Beginning in January our newly elected Board will engage in a multi-year Lines of Business process to examine all of our services in order to identify opportunities for efficiencies and savings. We have invited the School Board to participate with us in this process. I am hopeful that, working together, we will find new ways to economize on resources and improve on the delivery of services to families and students.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I am a full time Chairman. I work well over 40 hours per week plus countless hours of community and regional activities.



Glenda Gail 'for Rail' Parker (I)

Town of residence:

Alexandria, Fairfax County

Age: 68

Family: Three grown children, four Grand-children

Education: MBA with a certificate in Software Engineering Administration

Offices held, dates:

Elected to Vice- Chair, Independent Greens of Virginia (2007 to Present); elected to COG TPB CAC (2007-2010)

Occupation and relevant experience:

Governmental Budget Analyst, Businesswoman
Community involvement: Fairfax Federation Civic Association Committee, Public Safety Chair (approximately 2009-2010)

Website: www.GailParker.US

Email address: ggailparker@cox.net

Twitter handle: @ggailparker

Name three favorite endorsements: Independent Greens of Virginia



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The Independent Green Party Green New Deal will get us on the right track. The Green New Deal means double- digit job growth in Eco jobs for the economy. Solar jobs. Wind jobs. Geothermal jobs. Rail jobs. The Green New Deal means Bike share for Fairfax County. Bikes, like rail, increase the value of our homes, businesses, and communities. The Green New Deal will bring Electronic VRE signs for commuters. The Green New Deal means New Tracks, More Trains, More often to More Places. The Green New Deal is solar panels, and geothermal heating and cooling for every public building. Renewable energy makes money for taxpayers.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

My advocacy for Rail and renewable energy. Investments in Green Energy make money. The solar age is here and we want on-board! It is past time to bring the Green Revolution to Fairfax County.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

The infrastructure budget has too many subsidies to big oil, big asphalt, big auto, fossil fuels. Giving a half a trillion dollars in taxpayer subsidies annually worldwide to big oil is fiscal lunacy. Cut and reprioritize the infrastructure budget to invest in free solar energy and geothermal energy. Work harmoniously with the School Board to place money where it will do the most good, fund education costs and teacher salaries rather than administration costs. Build Rail: Rail will grow revenues by growing the economy. Rail increases the value of our homes, businesses and communities. Every \$1 invested in Rail returns \$20 to the community!

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

The new salary voted by the Board will allow me to devote full time to BOS duties.

Arthur Purves (R)

Town of residence: Vienna

Age: 66

Family: Married 42 years, two children, seven grandchildren

Education: BA, MS, MBA University of Pennsylvania

Offices held, dates: N/A

Occupation and relevant experience: Computer Programmer

Community involvement:

-President, Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance since 1996
-Member, Fairfax County Meals Tax Task Force (2014)
-Member, Hunter Mill Citizen Budget Committee (2013)
-Treasurer, Fairfax Committee 100
-Member Fairfax Branch, NAACP
-Past member of three Fairfax County Public Schools advisory committees
-Scoutmaster

Website: votepurves.org

Email address: Arthur@votepurves.org

Twitter handle: [agpurves](https://twitter.com/agpurves)

Name three favorite endorsements: Del. Tim Hugo and Loudoun Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Only 59% of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) seniors are prepared for college, and the percent prepared varies from 75% for Langley High School to 20% for Lee and Mt. Vernon High Schools. In a quarter of a century FCPS has made no progress in closing the minority student achievement gap: only 35% of Hispanic and 20% of African-American FCPS seniors are prepared for college. Even if you don't go to college, being prepared for college makes you better qualified for a good job. The solution is better instruction in the basics; not more money. As county chairman I would hold the school board accountable for achievement when the school board makes its annual \$2B budget request.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

The incumbent chairman:
For 16 years has raised real estate taxes three times faster than household income, which is unaffordable, especially for seniors;
Does not hold the schools accountable for achievement;
Is indifferent to the disproportionate incarceration of Hispanics and African-Americans in the county jail;
Sat silent for 17 months while the police department refused to disclose the details of the shooting of an unarmed civilian by a police officer on August 29, 2013;
Neglected maintenance of the now unsafe and unreliable Metrorail system to build the Silver Line;
Since 2000 cut staffing of libraries and parks by 112 positions while adding 145 clerks to handle public assistance applications, for a total of 354 public assistance positions.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics job growth in Fairfax County was close to last of the 342 largest U.S. counties last year. I will grow jobs by cutting taxes; using the chairman's pulpit to advocate for higher achievement, including Hispanic and African-American achievement, through better curricula; being transparent; and making Metrorail repairs my highest transportation priority.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

For FY2017 the county and schools want to increase spending by \$240M while revenues are projected to increase only \$20M without a real estate tax hike. This predicament demonstrates the need for new leadership. Seventy percent of the spending increase is for raises (3.5% for county and 4% for school employees), Cadillac health plans, and pensions with retirement at 55. My opponent would raise real estate taxes 9%, pushing the typical homeowner's real estate tax from \$5,700 to \$6,200. She raised real estate taxes 8% last year. For 16 years the supervisors have been increasing taxes three times faster than household income. Since 2000, while school enrollment has increased 22%, the school budget increased 100%. County and school spending for health and pension benefits increased \$700M since 2000; that is \$400M more than needed to keep up with inflation, population, and enrollment. For 16 years the average annual raise for 30,000 county and school employees has been 4%. To pay for these raises and benefits, the supervisors have been increasing real estate taxes three times faster than household income. The revenue from the tax hikes was not enough to pay for the raises and benefits, so park and library staffing was cut and class sizes increased. And now teachers and police cannot afford the \$6,000 real estate taxes that were increased to pay for their own raises and benefits. To make Fairfax County affordable again, we need to cut taxes by reducing benefits and giving smaller raises, as is the case with private-sector employees.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I can retire and be a full-time chairman.



School Board Candidates for Hunter Mill District

Pat Hynes

Incumbent
Town of residence: Reston
Age: 56
Family: Two children
Education: B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia; J.D. from Vanderbilt University
Offices held, dates: Hunter Mill representative on the Fairfax County School Board, 2012 to now; current chair of the Fairfax County School Board
Occupation and relevant experience: teacher; former lawyer
Community involvement: president, F.B. Meekins Cooperative Preschool in Vienna; president, Louise Archer PTA; president, Malcolm Windover Heights Civic Association; founding member, Vienna Teen Center Foundation
Website: www.hynesforschoolboard.com
Email address: hynesforschoolboard@gmail.com
Twitter handle: @VotePat
Name three favorite endorsements: Fairfax County Federation of Teachers; Fairfax Education Association; State Senators and Delegates who represent Reston and Vienna

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As an educator, my goal is that we meet students' needs every day in every classroom. That means closing achievement gaps and offering challenging, child-centered instruction to all. We must recruit and retain a well-trained, respected and competitively compensated workforce. We must replace the high-stakes test score chase with skills-based teaching and assessment that will prepare our students to communicate well, collaborate, and solve problems creatively.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I was a classroom teacher in FCPS from 2003 to 2012, which gives me unique insights and strong connections to the classroom. My legal training is also an important foundation, as school boards work within many legal constraints. As a PTA and community leader for two decades in Vienna and Reston, I built broad networks and developed a good understanding of the community's goals and values. Finally, I have served on the FCPS school board for the last four years, this year as the chair of the board. This board has been active and productive. I hope to continue that good work with my colleagues and use my experience to tackle the challenges ahead.



3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

FCPS must continue to provide resources to schools based on the needs of their students. But the school board should also be a more active voice in land use planning, to advocate for the kind of diverse communities that help schools thrive. With families from 200 countries and all socioeconomic backgrounds, our diversity is our greatest strength. As a county, we must manage that so that all children benefit.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

The FCPS Strategic Plan sets an appropriately bold goal: to close all achievement gaps. The critical next steps are to set measurable objectives and implement more equitable practices. We must be more intentional about expanding pre-K, integrating classrooms, and having high expectations for all. We should post an equity scorecard, prominently on the FCPS website, with updated achievement results broken down by socioeconomic, language and learning disability subsets. That transparency will help the community hold us accountable for real progress.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS is spending \$1,000 less per student, in real dollars, than we were seven years ago. Those cuts have come from teacher pay freezes, class size increases and significant cuts in central office support. It is time to reinvest. I will not vote for a budget that freezes teacher pay or raises elementary class size. If we find that revenues do not meet needs for 2017, my priorities will be guided by the broad community input we have already begun to gather. Longer term, it is essential that the school board and county board budget more strategically and more collaboratively, and that we modernize and diversify the revenue base.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

A world class school system like FCPS draws businesses and families to the county from all around the country and the world. Good jobs and higher property values follow. Great schools are the most powerful public investment we make.

Mark Wilkinson



Town of residence: Herndon
Family: I've been married for twenty years. Our older daughter is a graduate of the University of Virginia and our younger daughter is a 2015 graduate of Westfield High School.
Education: Graduated from the United States Air Force Academy
Occupation and relevant experience: Currently I'm a technical program manager in Chantilly. Prior to this, I worked in federal service for over 35 years. Volunteer with the Diocese of Arlington as a Camp Contractor working with teens in providing construction projects for underserved Virginia residents. Habitat for Humanity and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
Website: markwilkinsonforschoolboard.com
Email address: WilkinsonforSchoolBoard@outlook.com

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As a dad, taxpayer, and citizen, I believe that the children of Fairfax County must come first with any decisions made by the school establishment, particularly the School Board. It is my goal to be an independent and non-partisan advocate for children, teachers, and the taxpayers of Fairfax County. My plan is simple – reduce class size, increase teacher compensation, and close the achievement gap – which will improve the lives of ALL FCPS children.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is the 10th largest school system in the United States, and it requires strong leadership and people who know how to manage government programs, and who understand policy, budgets, strategy, and contracts. These are the key activities of a school board member. I have 35 years as a public servant doing just that — managing budgets 5 times the size of FCPS's budget. I will demand accountability and transparency, and ask the hard questions that are necessary to ensure that FCPS does not lose its status as a world-class school system.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

I would start with the Office of Program Evaluation — it is their mission to determine the effectiveness of FCPS programs. Why is it that the achievement gap continues to widen, and yet we continue to pour millions of dollars (above and beyond the federal and state requirements) into programs designed to help our neediest students? We need a fresh look at why they are not working. Instead of asking parents what to save, we are

asked what to cut — year after year. We need strong leadership that will SAVE the most important programs — those that have direct impact the classroom. In particular, our neediest students will benefit from additional funding for programs, like Project Momentum. Partnering with the community business on building maintenance, food services, custodial services have a potential for better value from competition and lower rates.

4. Address the achievement gap?

In addition to re-evaluating the programs designed to help our neediest students as described above, I believe that we need to offer competitive compensation for our teachers. The value of our public school system comes from great teachers. Talented teachers help motivate all kids to do their very best. Where is the funding going? Why is it not working? A teacher who recently quit from a Title 1 school said that he "gives up." He said he just could not connect and have educational success with his students. Someone needs to figure out why, and it should not be solely hoist upon our overstrained teachers.

5. What steps would you take to manage the budget gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

We need a scalpel to identify inefficiencies within programs, rather than proposing to axe programs like arts, music and sports. Such approaches only result in painful reductions in overall services provided to our school children. I propose that before we look at cutting programs, we should examine expenditures and their effectiveness.

We need fresh ideas to eliminate redundant, inefficient, and/or ineffective programs currently in the system. An online checkbook can improve transparency and accountability by showing the taxpayers where the money is going. A line item review, zero based budgeting, and tasking the auditor general to conduct performance-based audits will drive more dollars back to the teachers and into the classroom.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

Fairfax County schools drive business, which increases home values. Fairfax County home prices are the highest in the region. The quality of schools in our community is a main contributor to home values. Importantly, about 53% of personal property taxes goes to the FCPS. This demonstrates the commitment that Fairfax County residents have to the education of their own children and to the common good.

Editor's note: These responses have been edited for length; the full version is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Candidate for Hunter Mill District Supervisor

Catherine M. Hudgins (D)



Incumbent, unopposed.
Town of residence: Reston
Age: 71
Family: Two adult sons
Education: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education (University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) and Masters of Public Administration (George Mason University)
Offices held, dates: Elected four terms as Hunter Mill District Supervisor—: 1999—present
Occupation and relevant experience: Mathematics teacher and technology professional
Community involvement: PTA
Website: cathyhudgins2015.com
Email address: cathy@cathyhudgins.com
Name three favorite endorsements: IAFF

Local 2068, Northern Virginia, Realtors PAC, SEIU Virginia 512

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I continue to see two Fairfax Counties: one exceptional place to live for some; the other where many are unable to take advantage of all of the assets available in the community. One reason

for this is the struggle to ensure adequate opportunity for affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing affects the homeless and under-employed, seniors, and those newly entering the workforce. Fund the Initiative to Prevent and End Homeless and increase affordable housing stock in 60% - 100% of AMI.

2. What distinguishes you from your

opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

While unopposed, I would respond to any opponent that my years of experience on the Board and in the community equip me best to address the issues in the next four years. I understand the issues, have worked effectively to provide the services and support policies that enhance quality the lives of Hunter Mill District and Fairfax County residents.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Top priority must be for the School and County

Boards to set priorities to ensure the best outcomes for all children and families. Nearly 65 percent of General Fund goes to services to children and families: fifty--three percent to FCPS and eleven percent in Health and Welfare (H&H). While it may not be possible to directly combine these dollars for direct services, better coordination of service to children and families is necessary. Begin by addressing achievement gap, disparities and implementation pre-K, all related to better outcomes for FCPS and H&H. Success in these areas alone can make not only budget impact, but also better outcomes for youth, families and the community and warrant necessary increase to succeed and stay on target.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I have been retired from outside employment since elected in 1999 and serve fulltime.

School Board Candidates At-Large

Omar Fateh

Town of residence: Annandale

Age: 25

Education: MPA from George Mason University

Occupation and relevant experience: Former Campaign Finance Analyst at FEC, Former Academic Advisor/Assistant Instructor at Northern Virginia Community College

Community involvement: Co-organize youth basketball league, Assist in developing tutoring programs at local mosques

Website: www.fatehforschoolboard.com

Email address: fateh4sb@gmail.com

Twitter handle: Fateh4sb

Name favorite endorsements: Fairfax Education Association

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The achievement gap. Our minority and economically disadvantaged students continually score 20-30 points below their peers on standardized tests. The dropout rate among economically disadvantaged students has nearly doubled in the last four years. First, standardized test scores should not be the main indicator of student progress or potential. Second, rather than having teachers teach to the tests, it is important for the School Board to give teachers the freedom to identify their students' strengths and interests. Finally, we must get parents involved, and to place responsibility on the students to succeed as well.

2. Why should voters choose you?

The qualities that separate me most from the other candidates for School Board include the perspective I bring as a member of some of the County's many underrepresented communities (including the Somali and Muslim communities), as a former Fairfax County Public Schools student, and also as a former advisor to countless area students at Northern Virginia Community College.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Many parents in Fairfax County must work multiple jobs, and are not able to provide the full support needed by their children, such as attending school meetings and checking their children's work. It is critical for us to get parents as involved as we can, in part by meeting them on their terms and as much as possible. I will ensure that I am easily accessible to the entire community. Having worked with my local mosque to develop a tutoring program for our County's youth, many people within our community are willing to donate their time and efforts to help both academically, and in developing them as professionals.

Increased funding is necessary to meet the needs of an ever-expanding student body.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

To begin addressing the issue in earnest, the School Board first needs compassionate representatives willing to understand and serve the needs of the full range of County students with new energy and ability.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Board members must also better engage their fellow elected officials to seek additional funding. The majority of the Board of Supervisors wants to fully fund our schools, but the dollars simply are not coming in from Richmond. We need to work with state representatives to bring back our tax dollars. We must work first and foremost to provide additional funding. We must get both Boards on the same page, and put education—in other words, our children—first in Fairfax County.



Jeanette Hough

Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 36

Family: Husband, Charlie (Oakton graduate '97); Ryan (4th grade), Keri (2nd grade), Ethan (Kindergarten), Vader (rescue puppy)

Education: B.A. in Economics; University of Virginia, Masters in Physical Therapy; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Occupation and relevant experience: Physical Therapist (Senior Therapist – mentor and leader role)

Community involvement: Volunteer in children's elementary school, local homeless shelter, church, and with meals and holiday gifts through Our Daily Bread, volunteer with kid's sports and activities, Manna Meal coordinator, PTA member

Website: jeanetteforschoolboard.com

Email address: Jeanetteforschoolboard@gmail.com

Name three favorite endorsements: Class Size Counts, Former Congressman Tom Davis, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Responsibility to the community defines my call to serve. That responsibility comes with engaging the community members, being fiscally responsible and setting clear priorities. Authentic engagement includes holding office hours and citizen town halls throughout the year, not just showing up to ribbon cuttings and planned events. Our community deserves more transparency with FCPS' \$2.7 billion operating fund. I will prioritize reducing large class sizes, not with one-time fixes the way my opponents have, but with long-term planning. I will prioritize competitive teacher salaries. Our teachers' salaries have fallen behind compared to surrounding counties. Instead of making it a real priority, the Board raised their own salary by 60%.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents, why should voters choose you?

My opponents either do not have children or have not had children in FCPS for a long time. As the mother of children in graduating classes of 2023, 2025, 2027, I bring a unique insight into our school system. I bring an Economics degree when we face a shortfall of over \$70 million for FY17 due to failing to enact budgeting best practices.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Part of the growing divide comes from parallel decisions made by the Board of Supervisors. It is imperative to have a new School Board that can build trust with the Board of Supervisors. With a better relationship, the two Boards can work together for our community and all of our children.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Under current leadership, the achievement gap continues to be substantial. We cannot keep electing the same people and expect a different result. We need to provide a rigorous curriculum to all students and allocate resources for objective gains. We need to work with the community to provide wraparound services and empower parents to help their children at home.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS' projected shortfall is 2.5% of the operating budget. The current School Board took five years to hire an auditor general and has refused to do a line of business review. My top priority is to ensure clear metrics and objectivity so we base cuts on educational impact and effectiveness, not on bias and popularity. We also need to look at FCPS' contract procurement practices. I will bring leadership to the Board so we cut waste and inefficiency, not proven programs.



Manar Jean-Jacques

Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 31

Family: My family is originally from Egypt and my wonderful husband, Thierry, is from Haiti. We have been married for 7 years and we have a two children, Thomas is 2 and Mary is 8 months.

Education: I hold a B.A. in Sociology from George Mason University

Occupation and relevant experience: I work at the Refugee Processing Center as a contractor for the Department of State. Since starting there 8 years ago, I have been known as a solution-driven, out-of-the box thinker with creative solutions. In addition to my analytical skills, I bring a parent's perspective to the board. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the best education for children in FCPS.

Community involvement: I participate in local volunteer opportunities through my church, I spent time on the ground in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina assisting in disaster relief efforts and I spent time helping at an orphanage in my husband's hometown of Port-au-Prince, Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010.

Website: www.ManarForFairfax.com

Email address: Manar@manarforfairfax.com

Twitter handle: @Manar4FFX

Name favorite endorsements: I have am officially endorsed by the GOP and Arab Community Radio.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As a first generation American, I cherish the importance of a government that listens to its people. I feel called to serve in my local government because the current school board is unresponsive to its constituents. I plan on involving the community in all board-related matters through regular town halls, PTA meetings, setting special time aside to meet with teachers and making myself readily available to the residents of Fairfax County via office hours, email and phone.

2. Why should voters choose you?

The incumbent at-large candidates either have children that have already graduated from FCPS or do not have children at all, the only way they take their decisions home with them is in their pockets. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the highest quality education for FCPS students so that our children have the best opportunities to thrive and be successful. I understand the frustration parents have with class size disparity, the need for more rigor in the classroom and the need for parents of this next generation to be respected and recognized as the primary educators of their children ... that is a perspective needed on the school board and it is one that the incumbents cannot offer.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

It is important to keep rigor, class size disparity and staffing formulas at the heart of the conversation with the community. Working together, we can create solutions that address our county's challenges and needs. It is the responsibility of FCPS to educate all students in the county and shape them into productive members of the community.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Coming from an immigrant family and working daily to bring refugees to the U.S., I understand what education means for those seeking a better future for themselves and their families in the U.S. I am very concerned that the needle hasn't moved on closing the minority achievement gap in years, despite \$65 million being poured into projects targeting the issue. The current board continually changes the name of these projects (Excel, PSI, Momentum, etc), making it nearly impossible to

SEE QUESTIONNAIRES, NEXT PAGE



Ryan McElveen

INCUMBENT

Town of residence: McLean

Age: 29

Family: Married
Education: M.A. in International Affairs, Columbia University; B.A. in Anthropology and East Asian Studies, The University of Virginia

Offices held, dates: School Board Member, At-large, January 2012-Present

Occupation and relevant experience: Assistant Director, John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution

Website: www.ryanforschoolboard.com

Email address: voteryanmc@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @RyanLMcElveen

Name three endorsements: Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Democratic Committee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I will remain a voice for the voiceless who don't know how to best resolve their concerns with the school system. One of my first actions on the Board was to push for the creation of a system to allow community members to submit YouTube video testimonies to be shown at our meetings. We became the first public Board in the country to implement this kind of feedback mechanism. I will continue engaging with the community in a transparent manner and with an open mind while working to improve our communications.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have a track record of bringing significant and positive change to the school system in a short amount of time. I have focused on three major initiatives — improving school food (including the creation of a fresh food pilot kitchen and the system-wide study of our Food and Nutrition Services program), the internationalization working group (to help guide our work on implementing world languages and study-abroad opportunities), and the alumni networking action group (which has helped us map a path to create an FCPS alumni association). In my next term, I hope to see all of these efforts through to implementation.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

FCPS is a tale of two counties, and this unquestionably has emerged as one of our biggest challenges. In Fairfax, more than half of our elementary schools sit above the socio-economic tipping point, proving that Fairfax has moved beyond localized poverty. To address this divide, the School Board must maintain its long-standing practice of targeting these communities with needs-based funding. Co-location of school and human services facilities, as has been piloted in Mount Vernon, is another way to tackle this community issue without spending significant additional county resources.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Our Board has remained steadfast in our support of needy students and those who speak other languages at home by directing budget resources to these at-risk populations. We have made expanding early childhood opportunities one of our priorities, because we know that investments in the education of students at an early age pay dividends later in their educational careers (thus saving our system money). We must continue working with the county to creatively fund and house these programs.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to

SEE QUESTIONNAIRES, NEXT PAGE



School Board Candidates At-Large

Ilryong Moon

INCUMBENT
Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 58
Family: Father of 2 FCPS graduates
Education: Harvard, B.A.; William and Mary Law School, J.D.



Offices held, dates: At-Large School Board Member, 07/1995-12/1995 & 2004-present; Braddock District School Board Member 1996-1999; At-Large Planning Commissioner 2000-2003.

Occupation and relevant experience: Attorney since 1984; Member, Board of Directors, American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras, 2000-2010; Member, Board of Directors, Montessori School of Northern Virginia, 1994-1995

Community involvement: Youth soccer coaching, Fairfax-Falls Church Regional Council of the United Way, Police Chief's Diversity Council.

Website: www.moon4schools.com
Email address: moon@moon4schools.com
Twitter handle: @Moon4Schools

Name three favorite endorsements: My family, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, and Democratic Party

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

We should prepare our students for global competition. They will not only lead our country in the future, but must be able to compete with the students from the other nations. I want Fairfax County to be the best place to live, work, and raise children. We need good teachers and must support them. We should challenge our students to do their best, meet their individual needs, and provide them with a broad curriculum, including in STEM and foreign language education.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents; why should voters choose you?

Experience and unique perspectives. I have served on the school board for 16 years, including 3 years as chairman and 2 years as vice chairman, and also chaired budget, governance, personnel, and policy committees. Furthermore, I bring unique perspectives as an immigrant grown up in poverty, an English language learner, an attorney, and a small business owner.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

All students should have resources per their needs. We should work more closely with the parents to help their children succeed. For the parents with language, cultural, or employment barriers, we should reach out to them more proactively. All students should have adequate access to digital devices and internet capability. We must also work with the County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission on housing issues not to concentrate high poverty students on certain areas.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Adequate resources, closer work with families, and high expectations for all students are needed. I support needs-based staffing. Resources should follow students' needs whether in opportunities, special education, or learning English as a second language. We need to equip, train, and educate parents to help their children succeed. Also, everyone should have high expectations for all students. We should expand early childhood education opportunities, working with the County, State, private sector, and community organizations.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

A community consensus on the school funding level should be built. I support the superintendent's work with the budget task force to gather commu-

Burnette G. Scarboro

Town of residence: Alexandria (Fairfax County)
Age: Over 21
Family: Luther, husband; Children – Syreeta, Seneca and Stefanie
Education: Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC; NOVA Community College; and George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.



Offices held, dates: No elected office held

Occupation and relevant experience: Fairfax County Public Schools – Family Engagement Representative; African Heritage Early Literacy Project Leader. Co-founder South County Youth Network a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Member, Lt. Governor's Commonwealth Council for Childhood Success

Community involvement: Northern VA District PTA Director; Member, VA State PTA Board; Member, Chairman Bulova's Ad Hoc Police Review Committee; Coordinator, West Potomac-Mount Vernon School-Community Coalition

Website: www.burnette4schoolboard.com
Email address: friendsofburnette@gmail.com
Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements: Dr. Larry Bussey; The Faith Community; and Mattie Palmore, Community Activist

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

My desire to have equitable education for all students drives me to run, along with character education in all school pyramids.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Voters should choose me because I am embedded in the school system as an employee; family oriented and believe that students and families should not be judged by their geographical location.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

First, we need to address the increase in families placing their children in private schools or homeschooling; second, the economic divide is a direct correlation of the type of businesses in a community, i.e., fast food establishments vs. Fortune 500; and, third – work on changing the mindset of judging others by zip codes.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

The achievement gap should not exist. The history of public education clearly shows that that public education was not designed for people of color. The achievement gap came on the scene when schools were integrated. I can only address the problem when all stakeholders understand why the problem exists.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS and the BOS must work together to develop strategies to bring more businesses into the area and reduce the reliance on real estate taxes. Teachers know where cuts can be made and that is the group that I would begin my inquiries.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

A school system with a stellar reputation is sought by businesses and former school graduates to return and give back to the community. Taxpayers want to see "more bang for their bucks." Elect me to the school board and you'll see the plan in action!

Theodore J. "Ted" Velkoff

INCUMBENT
Town of Residence: Chantilly
Age: 61
Family: Wife, Dr. Patricia Velkoff; Daughters Catherine (South Lakes H.S. 2007), Elizabeth (Chantilly H.S. 2009)



Offices held, dates: At-Large member of the Fairfax County School Board, January 2012 to present. Have served as Vice Chairman of the Board, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Occupation and relevant experience: Senior Software Architect at Integrity One Partners, Reston VA; previously with Lockheed Martin and IBM in Manassas, VA. M.A., Computer Science, Indiana University; M. Music, Conducting, Indiana University; B. Music, Composition, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Community involvement: PTSA President, Chantilly H.S.; PTA Treasurer, Chantilly H.S., Rocky Run M.S., Poplar Tree E.S.; Treasurer, Pleasant Valley Preschool, Girl Scout Troup 2829. Volunteer, stage manager and occasional human prop, Fairfax Ballet.

Website: http://www.tv4sb.org
Email address: ted@tv4sb.org
Twitter handle: @TedVelkoff

Name three favorite endorsements: Supervisor John Foust, Senator Chap Petersen, Delegate Ken Plum.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Eliminate high stakes testing and replace with authentic assessments. We must restore the joy of teaching and learning that comes from projects, inquiry and communication. Recently inaugurated Portrait of a Graduate defines success not in terms of what students know, but what they can do with what they know.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am proud of the work accomplished by the board of which I have been a member for the past four years. We hired a visionary and transformational leader in Dr. Karen Garza. We made much-needed changes to student discipline practices; solved the high school start time problem; and instituted full-day instruction in elementary schools on Mondays. My opponents have seldom, if ever, attended school board meetings or work sessions, and appear to have been motivated solely by disagreement with one action of the board last May. I have been an effective member of the school board by building relationships and brokering agreements on potentially contentious policy decisions.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

We need to expand innovative programs in schools throughout the county, especially those in economically challenged communities. We must insist on rigorous instruction for all children in all schools, whether wealthy or poor, gifted or disadvantaged. I am deeply opposed to the punitive accountability measures imposed by the state and federal government, which are counterproductive. I am just as deeply committed to the principle that we in FCPS must do everything we can to meet the needs of all children.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

The most important thing we can do is to achieve universal pre-school in Fairfax County. Nobel Prize economist James Heckman has demonstrated that high quality pre-school yields a 7 to 1 return on investment in less remediation and discipline issues over the career of a student.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS

QUESTIONNAIRES CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE AND THIS PAGE

Manar Jean-Jacques

evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. I would begin addressing the achievement gap by engaging teachers in the conversation and seeking their expertise.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

If elected, I would like to put a motion before the board to vote on giving back the 60% raise they voted themselves in the midst of this budget gap. I would also like to look at outsourcing FCPS jobs that do not directly impact the education of children inside the classroom. Outsourcing gives businesses in the community an opportunity to thrive and frees up money that we would have been paying into pensions to now be redirected back into the classroom.

Ryan McElveen

fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS cannot remain the system it is today at current levels of funding, and we won't realize that we've hit the breaking point until it's too late. It is well past time to diversify local revenue streams.

Beyond Fairfax, the School Board must take advocacy to the next level by coalition building with similar, like-minded districts and umbrella organizations throughout the state to push for a change to our state funding mechanisms. Additionally, both Boards need to continue exploring legal recourse to obtain the education funding guaranteed by the Virginia constitution.

Ilryong Moon

nity input. Both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors need to know where the community stands. We should also review our programs, practices, and operations to find savings. My priorities are to increase teacher salaries, lower class sizes, and challenge all students to do their best and prepare them for the postsecondary education and employment.

Ted Velkoff

and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Because Virginia's antiquated form of government concentrates power in Richmond and marginalizes Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors and School Board are pitted against each other by design. The Supervisors control school revenue; the School Board controls school spending. The County Executive proposes a revenue-based budget; the Superintendent proposes a needs-based budget.

The County Executive has told FCPS to "live within its means." In accordance with that budget guidance, the Superintendent will have to cut \$72M from the operating budget. The School Board has closed similar gaps by increasing class size and limiting employee compensation. This year I will not support a budget that is balanced on the backs of our employees.

Questionnaires have been edited for length. Full questionnaires are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com click on Elections.

Neither Peter Marchetti nor Robert Copeland, both candidates for Fairfax County School Board At Large, returned their questionnaires for publication.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes senior Vela McBride is committed to play at Navy.

Brownell's 13 Kills Help South Lakes Sweep McLean

Seahawks volleyball in search of first conference title.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

One day after a three-set loss to defending state runner-up Madison on Oct. 15, first-year South Lakes volleyball coach Mike Ware decided to push his players in practice.

Ware wondered if he was too hard on the Seahawks, but the feedback he would receive left him at ease.

"We had maybe what I would call our toughest practice on Friday," Ware said. "I thought that they were beat up and I got texts from the girls saying, 'Hey, this was the best practice that we've had all season and we like this.' ... I went home thinking, 'Did you go a little bit too hard?' because it was after the Madison loss, too, so my patience level was a little thin for nonsense."

After South Lakes took the court Monday, Ware received further confirmation the Seahawks had re-focused after their first Conference 6 defeat.

Senior outside hitter Kristina Brownell put away seven of her team-high 13 kills in the third set and the Seahawks defeated McLean 3-0 (25-20, 25-23, 25-23) on Oct. 19 at South Lakes High School.

South Lakes improved to 9-3,



Melody Caloyannides and the South Lakes volleyball team swept McLean on Monday.

including 3-1 in the conference by sweeping a McLean team that entered the match with an 18-4 record (9-2 in best-of-five matches), including 3-0 in the conference.

THE SEAHAWKS didn't let up after winning the first two sets, finishing the sweep with a comeback victory in the third. South Lakes trailed 23-21, but closed the match with four straight points.

"It can be hard [to not let up

after winning the first two sets] because you get a little bit too comfortable sometimes," said South Lakes senior opposite hitter Vela McBride. "Teams aren't going to roll over and give the match to you, so you've really got to focus and push through."

What did finishing the sweep say about the Seahawks?

"It says that they've learned from what happened in the past," Ware said. "Early in the season, we lost to a team who, quite honestly, they're not on the same level as



PHOTOS BY LISA MCARTHUR AND JON FLEMING

South Lakes Boys, Girls Cross Country Teams Keep Running

South Lakes High School Cross Country boys team participated at the Third Battle of Winchester Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 17. Boys JV Upper-classmen won 5th place and Jack Watkins placed 24th among 273 runners. The girls competed the same day in Milestat.com Cross Country Invitational at Pole Green Park in Mechanicsville, Va. Varsity girls won 11th place and Monica Lannen placed 66th among 204 runners.



us. We had won the first two and the girls acted like we won the lottery or something, and then the momentum left us and we lost it. It was one of the toughest losses of my career." South Lakes hasn't lost many this season and appears to be a contender for the program's first conference title.

"[Our] biggest goal, first of all, is to get something on that banner up there [in the gym] because there's nothing on it right now," said McBride, who is committed to play at Navy. "We want to be conference champs and then after that we want to continue on and eventually make it to states, hopefully. We are aiming high this year. We're excited."

Brownell was the go-to hitter for South Lakes on Monday, tallying seven kills in the third set.

"It feels good because you're on a hot streak," Brownell said about her performance in the third set, "and you just keep going and ... you're supporting your team."

Brownell finished with 13 kills and hit .500. She also had four aces.

"I have told her often that her game is one of the types of games that are my favorite to watch," Ware said. "I love watching her. She's spectacular. She hits every

set. You rarely see that. She can hit any set. It could be behind her, in front of her, high, low, inside, outside, it doesn't matter — she can crank it."

South Lakes senior outside hitter Melody Caloyannides totaled eight kills, six digs, five aces, five assists and one block. Caloyannides plans to play in college and said she has narrowed her choices to Virginia Tech and James Madison University.

McBride had six kills, five digs and three blocks.

"They're All-American-type players," Ware said about Caloyannides and McBride, who are each four-year varsity players. "They don't come around every day. They raise everybody's level."

Senior outside hitter Sophie Cross had five aces for South Lakes. Junior setter Kristin Allgaier totaled 20 assists and six digs. Junior Rachel Abelson led the Seahawks with seven digs.

McLean sophomore outside hitter Madison McArthur finished with 12 kills.

SOUTH LAKES will travel to face Langley (15-4, 4-0) at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21. McLean will host Madison (14-3, 4-0) at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Solmate Socks at Appalachian Spring – Cornerstones Benefit. Through October. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Join them in bringing warm colorful socks to residents at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter. For every pair purchased, a pair will be donated to Cornerstones by Solmate Socks. For more information, call 703-478-2218 or visit <http://www.appalachianspring.com>.

“Ephemeral” Exhibition at GRACE. Through Nov. 14 at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Explore the nature of non-permanent, three-dimensional works addressing the concept of ephemerality. Presented in conjunction with the Washington Sculptors Group. restonarts.org

Colors of Life Exhibit. Through Oct. 30 at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Color is a major inspiration for Reston-based fiber artist Anne Smyers, and a central feature in her vibrant work, which will be featured at the Hunters Woods branch of Reston Community Center from. Her solo show Colors of Life highlights several series: recent works in her signature “floral landscapes” style, created by layering flowers into fanciful landscape designs; and a five-element series inspired by the concept of unity and healing intrinsic to traditional Chinese acupuncture.

Reston Station Movie Nights. Saturdays starting Through Nov. 1. 7-10 p.m. at Reston Station Metro Plaza, 11389 Reston Station Blvd., Reston. Reston Station’s “Watch Under Our Stars,” a six-week fall family-friendly movie series. Films start at sunset. The plaza area is lined with concrete pavers, so attendees are encouraged to bring low chairs or cushions. <http://www.restonstation.com/RSmovieNightPoster.pdf>.

The Sound of Color Exhibit. Through Nov. 1. JoAnne Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Music produces images, colors, dreams...Reality changes when you listen to music...a new world opens up the window of your imagination. Visit the LRA web site at www.leagueofrestonartists.org to find more information on this and other events.

“Images of Fall.” Saturday-Sunday through Nov. 5 at Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston. An exhibit of fine art photography by Kathy Kautter. Recognized for her “good eye”, Kautter captures colors and textures in her favorite topics of flora, leaves, trees, and water. Also an accomplished painter, Kautter’s specialty in photography has grown with her fascination for the colors and light of nature.

Expressions Portrait Competition Exhibit. Through Sunday, Nov. 1. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. 25 diverse portraits in various mediums are selected from 125 submissions by 67 artists for the 7th Annual Expressions Portrait Exhibit. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/expressions-portrait-exhibit-2015/> or call 703-956-6590.



Reston Art Gallery and Studios presents Images of Fall, an exhibit of fine art photography by Kathy Kautter, on display from Oct. 2 through Nov. 5. Recognized for her “good eye,” Kautter captures colors and textures in her favorite topics of flora, leaves, trees, and water. Also an accomplished painter, Kautter’s specialty in photography has grown with her fascination for the colors and light of nature.



“Great Falls, Evening Light” by Patricia Deege is among the paintings displayed in The Sound of Color Exhibit at JoAnne Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston, through Nov. 1. Music produces images, colors, dreams...Reality changes when you listen to music...a new world opens up the window of your imagination. Visit the LRA web site at www.leagueofrestonartists.org to find more information on this and other events.

HALLOWEEN CALENDAR

Halloween events around town.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 23-24

Bradley Farm Haunted House. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Bradley Farm Haunted House, 13159 New Parkland Drive, Herndon. Looking for a some spine tingling fun this Halloween? Right here in Herndon, the Bradley Farm Haunted House promises everyone a ghoulishly fun time. This year’s theme is “The Haunted Coal Mine.” Trick-or-treating for children 10 and under. Proceeds go to Herndon-Reston FISH. \$5. www.BFHauntedHouse.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 23

Spooktacular. 6:30-8 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Enjoy ghoulish games, a spooky craft and a children’s show. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

How to Draw Zombies. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Do you like to draw? Do you like zombies? Cartoonist Paul Merklein shows students.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-NOV. 1

Reston Zoo’s Zoo Boo. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Reston Zoo, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Designed for a younger audience, Zoo Boo offers four days of scare-free fun. Join their safe zoo neighborhood of Halloween entertainment, with kid-friendly fun around every corner.

MONDAY/OCT. 26

Halloween Scavenger Hunt. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Wits and daring are necessary to figure out clues that will lead you to scary items.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

Halloween Parade. 10:30 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Stories, songs and activities, all with a Halloween theme. Join us for a Halloween Parade following storytime. Costumes are welcome. Age 0-5 with adult. Spooky Tales of the Night. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Spiderella as she weaves her webs of scary stories just for you.

All-comers’ Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. For more information, call 703-689-0999 or visit <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

Admis-

FROM PAGE 11

and transcripts, looking for strong and consistent academic achievement.

In the face of such a confusing and competitive process, many parents have turned to educational consultants for advice and assistance.

“With the workload that school guidance counselors now have, there are a lot of families that are using independent consultants and that number has increased, and it has definitely increased over the last five or 10 years,” said Sarah Brachman, manager of communications, Independent Educational Consultants Association.

In fact, Mark Sklarow, the association’s chief executive officer, said 5-10 percent of families looking for an independent day school use an independent educational consultant, while 40 percent use one to find a boarding school.

Getting to know the child helps educational consultants identify schools that are a good match. “Does the student do better in a hands-on environment or sitting at desk and the teacher writes on a blackboard?” said Leigh Ann Cahill of Independent School Options, an educational consulting firm in Alexandria. “We have so many wonderful schools in the area. We come up with five to seven schools that are the best fit for the family.”

AFTER HELPING families decide where

to apply, education consultants sit down with families to review test scores, transcripts, teacher evaluations and other application requirements.

“It’s important to have an open and honest conversation with the parent,” said Cahill, a former teacher. She stressed that educational consultants cannot sway admissions decisions. Instead, “we look at the areas of strength. Rarely do you have a child who doesn’t have any areas of strength.”

She stressed that low test scores or blemishes on an academic transcript don’t mean automatic rejection by independent schools. “Maybe the art teacher or science teacher says really great things about the child. We try to build a realistic profile of who the child is as a learner and where they have a spark. If you’re a great photographer, let’s

link up your website if you’ve been posing photographs or bring your portfolio.”

The essays are sometimes a bit daunting for parent and child, she added. “What do we say here? What do they mean when they ask this question? We don’t write essays, but talk through ideas with parents and student and help them figure out what the admissions offices are looking for.”

In the end, everyone’s goal is to find the best matches for both the students and the schools. “It’s something that the parents don’t have any control over,” said Cahill. “One thing we really try hard to work with the parent is seeing this as a learning adventure. ... Their child will end up in a school somewhere.”

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I'm Fine Until I'm Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I title this column within the context of yours truly waiting for the results from my most recent diagnostic scan, a PET Scan in fact, a scan which offers more detail and clarity than the usual and customary CT Scan – without contrast (for those of you in the diagnostic loop) – that I have scheduled every three months going on nearly seven years now. I'm not stressing about it particularly, even though a post-scan (Wednesday appointment)/pre-weekend e-mail notification providing the results (especially the good kind) might have de-bumped the weekend road, but we've been down this dusty trail before so we (Team Lourie) will manage. Ergo the title.

My philosophy with respect to life in general and being a cancer patient in specific has been: "It's nothing until it's something." And if a follow-up explanation has been required, I've usually added something like: "It will be bad enough when it's actually bad, so I don't see the need to make it bad when so far as we know, it might be good." (Sounds like a mnemonic device trying to explain the difference between its and it's.) And continuing to be relatively/comparatively (speaking of grammatical/word usage; both apply here, I think) asymptomatic has certainly been a good/make-that-great thing; nevertheless, I can't help but remember that my original emergency room visit on January 1st, 2009 was precipitated by pain in my rib cage which had migrated from right to left and the associated shortness of breath. Three days later however, after being prescribed six pills to be taken over three days – for a possible pneumonia, my symptoms disappeared and remained so until I began chemotherapy a week after my diagnosis was confirmed on February 27th by my new best friend, my oncologist. That's when the fun really began: side effects of chemotherapy. But that's a whole 'nother series of stories, past and presumably future.

And since there's no guaranteeing one's future, all I can do, especially as a non-small cell lung cancer patient originally characterized as "terminal," with late/the latest stage – stage IV – is to minimize the complications I can control: diet, exercise, nutrition and stress, and accept the ones I can't. Stress is our four-letter word and maybe even a killer, too. And it serves no real purpose other than to create pain and suffering, when the complete opposite is what's needed and much preferred. Fortunately, my personality enables me to live life – emotionally – as if I'm not living on the precipice and about to be robbed of a reasonably normal senior circuit, given the fact that both my parents lived beyond their mid-eighties. (My limited knowledge and presumption of such lineage-related subjects was that as the son, I would likely have the same or better life expectancy.) Being told instead, at age 54 and a half, that I had "13 months to two years to live" was disappointing to say the least and downright dehumanizing to say the most.

It certainly becomes a not-merry-go-round existence on your date of diagnosis/prognosis and for the seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and even years ahead (if you're lucky?); but eventually one, at least this one, finds a level on which one can live, love and laugh and not be constantly overwhelmed by less-than-ideal medical circumstances. Am I pretending? Am I presuming? Am I hoping and praying? Am I fighting back my internal demons? Am I compartmentalizing? Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! and Yes! Every chance I get. But as the doctor treating Capt. Augustus McRae in Miles City, near the end of part three of "Lonesome Dove" advised Gus to let the doctor amputate his remaining leg, Gus replied: "Sawbones, you can't have that other leg. Now how would I kick a pig?" To which the doctor responded: "I assure, sir, the alternative is gloomy."

Well, I don't want to be a gloomy Gus – which Augustus wasn't, any more that I want to be a dismal Jimmy, which I rarely am. However, this cancer diagnosis presents all sorts of challenges – some I can overcome, some I can't. Most of all though, I'm trying to stay in the present, and deal with my future one day/result at a time.

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

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