



# Boysko Wins 86th

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## South Lakes to Host Oakton in Football Playoffs

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A pair of re-elected and newly-elected Democrats gets a wild welcome from the gathering at the Democratic election watch party. From left, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86). Boysko's election brings a Democrat to the district for the first time in many years.

— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

*"My commute is now safer and more predictable. I don't worry that I will encounter traffic congestion that eats into the limited time I can spend with my Dad."*

- Kathy B.  
Falls Church, VA



Ever since she was a little girl, Kathy from Falls Church has loved taking long car rides with her dad, especially when he came home from serving in Korea and Vietnam. Now that she is older, Kathy is the one driving her dad around and she still takes him on a weekly adventure. She loves that no matter where they go, she says she can always count on the Express Lanes to get to her dad's house in 30 minutes. Kathy knows that she'll never be stuck in traffic — instead, she'll get to spend her precious time with her dad.

See more real stories from the Lanes at [ExpressLanes.com](http://ExpressLanes.com)



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

## Democrats Win Closely Watched Races in McLean, Great Falls and Herndon

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**H**istory promised Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) that her reelection bid to Virginia's House of Delegates would be close; no matter how much money Republicans pumped into Craig Parisot's campaign in the final days.

Last Tuesday, Nov. 3, Murphy defeated Parisot (R) by a final count of 10,820 votes to 10,632, less than one percent of voters in the 34th District.

"We all knew it would be close," said Parisot.

The morning after the election, Parisot sent a legal team to observe a canvas held in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, which are represented by the 34th district, to ensure the election's authenticity.

"After determining that results were marked correctly, the tapes were valid and provisional ballots were taken into consideration, I found no reason to contest the outcome," he said. "Simply put, it was just a close race."

Murphy has described her emotions taking the oath of office in Richmond, thinking about her past predecessors, historical predecessors who have served Virginia.

After last Tuesday's victory she said, "It is an honor to represent the 34th district in the General Assembly and I am so grateful to my constituents for entrusting me with a second term," said Murphy. "I will continue to work with both Democrats and Republicans to strengthen our economy, keep our schools world-class, and protect our communities and children from the spread of gun violence."

This election was a rematch of the special election triggered last November 2014 when Barbara Comstock (R) was elected to U.S. Congress.

Murphy received 51.23 percent of the vote, and defeated Parisot who received 48.63 percent of the vote.

The 34th District has a history of close elections.

In 2013, Murphy lost to Barbara Comstock 50.64 percent to 49.21 percent. Murphy received 14,540 votes to Comstock's 14,962.

In 2012, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney literally tied in the district, each receiving 18,688 votes, according to Virginia Public Access Project.

"I have no regrets and would only change one thing if I could — the outcome," said Parisot.

**OTHER ELECTIONS** last Tuesday were not as close, but were closely watched.

Long-time Herndon resident Jennifer Boysko (D) will succeed Tom Rust (R) as



**Del. Jennifer Boysko (D) defeated Danny Vargas (R) in the open seat created by the retirement of Del. Tom Rust (R-86).**

**"There's a lot to do, but education kept coming up as a real priority."**

—Jennifer Boysko (D-86)



**Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) won reelection by less than one percent of the vote in a rematch with Craig Parisot (R).**

**"It is an honor to represent the 34th district in the General Assembly and I am so grateful to my constituents for entrusting me with a second term."**

—Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34)



**John Foust (D) won reelection over Republican Jennifer Chronis.**

**"I'm proud of the fact that after eight years people know me pretty well and know how I conduct myself as supervisor. I'm honored that they give me another opportunity."**

—Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)

### Updated, unofficial results:

#### District 34 House of Delegates Results

Kathleen J. Murphy (D)*	10,820	50.40%	\$689,469 spent
Craig A. Parisot (R)	10,632	49.52%	\$748,827 spent

#### District 86 House of Delegates Results

Jennifer B. Boysko (D)	8,283	54.46%	\$478,985 spent
Raul "Danny" Vargas (R)	6,390	42.01%	\$654,725 spent
Paul R. Brubaker (I)	526	3.46%	\$9,100 spent

#### Dranesville District Supervisor Results

John W. Foust (D)*	15,017	54.25%	\$339,788 spent
Jennifer C. Chronis (R)	12,625	45.61%	\$350,160 spent

86th District delegate, who announced his retirement last spring.

Boysko won the 86th District with 54.46 percent of the votes over Danny Vargas, who received 42.01 percent of the vote.

Election night, Boysko was greeted by thunderous applause as she joined her Assembly colleagues on stage at the Democratic victory party.

"It's already been an incredible learning experience," said Boysko, in an interview Tuesday night after election result announcements had been made.

"I've talked to literally thousands of people in my district, listening to what they need, what are their concerns," she said.

"There's a lot to do, but education kept coming up as a real priority."

Vargas, Boysko's opponent received large, late infusions of campaign money from Republicans, and had a total of \$705,323, which he spent mostly on mailers and TV commercials attacking Boysko and inaccurately claiming she supports tolling of I-66.

"Even though we came up short tonight I want to thank all of our supporters and volunteers that have made this effort possible," said Vargas in an election night statement. "I wish Delegate-elect Boysko well in serving our District."

Boysko served as Supervisor John Foust's legislative aide, and worked on many

Herndon issues.

"She's an amazingly hard worker, she's smart, she cares about people and doing great things, and she's in public service for all the right reason," said Foust.

**FOUST** was reelected to the Board of Supervisors for his third term, beating Jennifer Chronis, (R).

Foust has served on the Board the last eight years.

"I'm proud of the fact that after eight years people know me pretty well and know how I conduct myself as supervisor. I'm honored that they give me another opportunity," he said.

Chronis ran for the first time.

"Thank you all for everything you have done for me and my team. Whether through your financial contributions, your volunteer hours, your encouragement and feedback, or your votes, every last one of you helped us in some way. For that, I am eternally grateful," said Chronis.

Senator Barbara Favola was reelected for her second term, defeating challenger George Forakis.

"Dranesville has an amazingly talented team of public servants. We work well together, we will get a lot of good things done," said Foust.

# Democrats Win Local Elections

But General Assembly stays in the red column.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**“W**e didn’t win the war tonight, but we did come out ahead in some of the important local battles, and that’s a good start.” That was Roger Kline’s take on the results of the elections for Virginia’s General Assembly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and School Board members. Kline was one of hundreds that gathered at The Waterford at Fair Oaks for the Fairfax Democratic Committee’s Election Watch Party on Tuesday night.

Although the doors to the Watch Party opened at 7 p.m. just as the polls were closing, things did not really get underway until closer to 9 p.m. when the faithful and those they supported began to arrive in earnest.

Monitors in the corners of the room were constantly surrounded by attendees checking the latest results.

“It’s enough to give you an ulcer,” said Aida Lee, referring to the see-sawing numbers that were coming in early on for Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) whose district includes part of Loudoun County, and Great Falls, McLean, Wolftrap and Langley in Fairfax County. When 100 percent of the votes were finally reported, Murphy was leading her opponent Craig Parisot, whom she had previously defeated for the seat in a special election.

**THE ‘WAR’** that was not won on Tuesday

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 5

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



**Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) can relax and share a smile with other attendees of the Election Watch Party — she won re-election to her seat with more than 94 percent of the vote and her only competition came from undeclared write-ins.**



**A pair of re-elected and newly-elected Democrats gets a wild welcome from the gathering at the Democratic election watch party. From left, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86). Boysko’s election brings a Democrat to the district for the first time in many years.**

was the Democrats’ fight to gain control of the Virginia Senate. Prior to the election Republicans held the majority, 21-19. Because of the tie-breaking powers of democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, the Democrats only needed one more seat to gain control.

Democratic candidates prevailed in several hotly contested races, but at the end of the day the total numbers remained unchanged. With an overwhelmingly Republican House and a continued GOP “tilt” in the Senate, Gov. Terry McAuliffe and his

# Fairfax Republicans Celebrate the Victorious

And honor those who were defeated.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**S**upervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he much preferred this night to the one when he was elected to his first term. A close race with his opponent meant waiting around until late into the evening. This year, Cook defeated Democrat Janet Oleszek by a more handy margin of about six percent of the vote.

“Local government is about being the level closest to the people,” Cook said, as the first speaker at the Fairfax County Republican Committee election results viewing party. “It’s about getting things done, the right way.” The party was held Nov. 3 at the Fairview Marriott hotel in Falls Church.

Cook attributed his victory to having a full term to “do a lot of work,” including work with Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sheriff Stacey Kincaid on a “Diversion First” program to help prevent people with mental illness from ending up in the Adult Detention Center without prior mental health evaluation, work raising awareness and developing resources for victims of domestic violence, and working with community leaders.

“People have shown appreciation for that, and I’m very thankful,” Cook said.

Incumbent Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) recorded a more lopsided victory in his race against Independent Green candidate Corazon Foley. He spoke about continuing to push “the message of transparency from our government” and working with the School Board during his next term.

Arthur Purves was unsuccessful in challenging incumbent Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. At the podium, he described himself as “marching to a different drummer.”

Jennifer Chronis came closer to knocking off her incumbent opponent John Foust for Dranesville District Supervisor, however still trailed by about eight points at the end of the night.

“I’m not going away,” Chronis said she told Foust when she called to congratulate him on the victory. “I’m proud of the race we ran and the issues we discussed.”

The surprise of the night was Fairfax resident and Republican Jeanette Hough finishing ahead of incumbent Ted Velkoff for the third at-large seat on the Fairfax County School Board.

Craig Parisot was shown to have finished about a point behind Democrat Kathleen Murphy for the 34th District House of Delegates seat, but a representative from the Republican committee reminded members of the audience there would be a final tally taking place first thing in the morning.



**Incumbent Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) defeated Democrat challenger Janet Oleszek with over 51 percent of the vote.**

PHOTOS BY  
TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION



**Incumbent Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) won re-election handily over Independent Green challenger Corazon Foley, who ran a minimalist campaign based on establishing a dedicated center for senior citizens in the Springfield district.**



**Incumbent Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) defeated Democrat challenger Jerry Foltz with over 63 percent of the votes.**

# Democrats Win Local Elections

FROM PAGE 4

party face uphill battles at every turn in their attempts to press forward their priorities, including gun safety regulations and the expansion of Medicaid in the Commonwealth.

Senate Minority Leader Richard Saslaw (D-35), who defeated his Independent Green Party opponent Terry W. Modglin 73.45 percent to 25 percent, addressed the crowd when he introduced the winning senators and delegates who were present at the Watch, telling them to not lose hope yet.

**VICTORY BY** Jennifer Boysko in the 86th district was one of the “important local battles” that attendee Kline cheered. Boysko replaces retiring Republican Del. Tom Rust, defeating Danny Vargas (R). Boysko was greeted by thunderous applause as she joined her Assembly colleagues on stage. “It’s already been an incredible learning experience,” said Boysko, in an interview after the formal election result announcements had been made. “I’ve talked to literally thousands of people in my district, listening to what they need, what are their concerns,” she added. “There’s a lot to do, but education kept coming up as a real priority.” Boysko said she is looking forward to the challenge ahead and hoped to become a part of a “civility caucus.” “I think a lot more can be accomplished when we treat each other with dignity and respect.”

Vargas, Boysko’s opponent received large, late infusions of campaign money from Republicans, and had a total of \$705,323, which he spent mostly on mailers and TV commercials that were unflattering and critical of Boysko.

Democrats also took the upper hand in the results for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. By re-electing all eight incumbents, including Chairman Sharon Bulova, and adding the Democratic candidates for the vacant seats in the Mount Vernon and

Sully districts, the voters gave the board one more Democratic member than they had originally. When the new board takes office in January, incumbents Pat Herrity of the Springfield District and John C. Cook from the Braddock District will be the only Republican members of the governing body of Virginia’s largest jurisdiction. The Sully District seat, formerly held by Supervisor Michael Frey (R), was won by School Board member Kathy Smith (D) over Republican John Guevara. Another School Board member, Dan Storck, took the Mount Vernon Supervisor contest over Jane Gandee (R), replacing the retiring Gerry Hyland (D).

Democratic Fairfax County School Board election winners were also on hand at the event and took to the stage when introduced by Board of Supervisors Chairman Bulova. Ryan McElveen and Ilryong Moon retained their At-Large positions, while Ted Velkoff lost his seat to Republican-backed Jeanette Hough of Fairfax. Pat Hynes remains as the School Board member in the Hunter Mill District. Jane Strauss retains the position she has held for two decades for her Dranesville constituency. In the Sully District contest for School Board, Republican Tom Wilson was ahead of Karen Keys-Gamarra by about 200 votes.

**POLITICAL NEWCOMER** Dalia Palchik, the Providence District School Board member winner over incumbent Patty Reed, received the evening’s most enthusiastic reception. When asked if it was possible that she knew every single person in the room in order to receive such a welcome, Palchik laughingly replied, “Could be.” The young teacher said she “made a pilgrimage in the streets of Providence District” likening her journey to her experience on the famous pilgrimage route from France to the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Humbled by the response from the crowd, Palchik says she truly loves people and tries to show it when she meets them. “Less test-

ing and more teaching” are battles cries for Palchik, who said she was ready to represent a diverse community “after I get just a

little bit of sleep.”

A full list of all of the races and the results throughout Virginia are available at [www.results.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.results.elections.virginia.gov).

## Fairfax County Election Results

Unofficial results as of Wednesday morning, Nov. 4, 2015.  
\* indicates incumbent

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
<b>Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney</b>		
Raymond F. Morrogh* (D)	141,601	96.78%
Unopposed		
<b>Fairfax County Sheriff</b>		
Stacey Ann Kincaid (D)*	107,610	57.96%
Bryan A. “B. A.” Wolfe (R)	77,609	41.80%
<b>Fairfax County Clerk of the Court</b>		
John T. Frey (R)*	86,623	48.01%
Bettina Mary Lawton	83,111	46.07%
Marisa R. Wissar (I)	10,252	5.68%
<b>Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District</b>		
Top three take office		
George W. Lamb IV*	94,260	30.71%
Gerald O. “Jerry” Peters*	93,140	30.35%
Scott John Cameron	90,714	29.55%
Stephen L. Pushor	26,640	8.68%
<b>Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors</b>		
Sharon S. Bulova (D)*	111,124	59.84%
Arthur G. Purves (R)	63,209	34.04%
Glenda Gail Parker (I)	10,890	5.86%
<b>Fairfax County Public School Bond</b>		
\$310 million for new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishings and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system.		
Yes	138,296	74.27%
No	47,911	25.73%
<b>Fairfax County Public Safety Facilities Bond</b>		
\$151 million for construction, reconstruction, enlargement, renovation and equipment of civil and criminal justice facilities, police training facilities and stations, fire and rescue training facilities and stations.		
Yes	136,176	73.20%
No	49,850	26.80%
<b>Board of Supervisors, District Members</b>		
<b>Braddock District</b>		
John C. Cook (R)*	12,082	51.60%
Janet S. Oleszek (D)	10,675	45.59%
Carey C. Campbell (I)	610	2.61%
<b>Dranesville District</b>		
John W. Foust (D)*	14,807	53.92%
Jennifer C. Chronis (R)	12,615	45.94%
<b>Hunter Mill District</b>		
Catherine M. Hudgins (D)*	17,235	94.33%
Unopposed		
<b>Lee District</b>		
Jeffrey C. McKay (D)*	12,792	96.89%
Unopposed		
<b>Mason District</b>		
Penelope A. “Penny” Gross (D)*	9,196	57.22%
Mollie A. Loeffler (I)	6,785	42.22%
<b>Candidate Votes Percentage</b>		
<b>Mount Vernon District</b>		
Daniel G. “Dan” Storck (D)* 11,714 56.85%		
Jane R. Gandee (R) 8,841 42.91%		
<b>Providence District</b>		
Linda Q. Smyth (D)* 13,134 95.46%		
Unopposed		
<b>Springfield District</b>		
Patrick S. “Pat” Herrity (R)* 18,204 80.56%		
Corazon S. Foley (I) 4,226 18.70%		
<b>Sully District</b>		
Kathy L. Smith (D) 11,200 51.76%		
John P. Guevara (R) 10,382 47.98%		
<b>Fairfax County School Board at Large</b>		
Top Three Take Office		
Ilryong Moon*	83,983	17.13%
Ryan L. McElveen*	83,051	16.94%
Jeanette M. Hough	80,006	16.32%
Theodore J. “Ted” Velkoff*	74,803	15.26%
Robert E. “Bob” Copeland	74,509	15.20%
Manar A. Jean-Jacques	57,102	11.65%
Peter M. Marchetti	12,903	2.63%
Omar M. Fateh	11,822	2.41%
Burnette G. Scarborough	10,617	2.17%
<b>School Board District Candidates</b>		
<b>Braddock District School Board</b>		
Megan O. McLaughlin*	14,147	75.38%
Katherine A. Pettigrew	4,205	22.41%
<b>Dranesville District School Board</b>		
Jane K. “Janie” Strauss* 14,075 54.29%		
Peter Kurzenhauser 11,781 45.44%		
<b>Hunter Mill District School Board</b>		
Pat M. Hynes*	12,951	61.30%
Mark S. Wilkinson	8,116	38.41%
<b>Lee District School Board</b>		
Tamara J. Derenak Kaufax* 11,759 96.34%		
Unopposed		
<b>Mason District School Board</b>		
Sandra S. Evans* 11,975 96.60%		
Unopposed		
<b>Mount Vernon District School Board Open Seat</b>		
Karen L. Corbett Sanders 11,915 61.81%		
W. Anthony Stacy 7,319 37.97%		
<b>Providence District School Board</b>		
Dalia A. Palchik	9,293	58.22%
Patricia S. “Patty” Reed*	6,594	41.31%
<b>Springfield District School Board</b>		
Elizabeth L. Schultz* 18,933 97.60%		
Unopposed		
<b>Sully District School Board Open Seat</b>		
Thomas A. Wilson	10,242	50.38%
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra	10,041	49.39%

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



**Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and his wife Jane join the party. The incumbent ran unopposed. On stage for the official results announcements, Plum was serenaded by the crowd with the ‘Happy Birthday’ song in honor of his birth anniversary on Nov. 2. “What a great gift,” he declared. “Could only be better if we win it all!”**



**Freshly re-elected Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova introduces Dalia Palchik as the next Providence District School Board member. Bulova and others referred to Palchik as a rising star in the Democratic Party.**

# OPINION

## Veterans Day in Virginia

Fairfax County and other localities embrace effort to end veteran homelessness this year, while veterans contribute much to the economy.

Virginia is home to about 690,000 veterans, more than 60 percent of them from the Gulf Wars. There are more than 12,000 veteran-owned businesses in Fairfax County alone, and more than a third of those businesses are categorized by the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority as professional science and technology.

In 2014, according to the Census Bureau, the median income of veterans in Virginia was more than \$50,000, while for non-veterans, the median income was \$29,909. Only 5.5 percent of veterans in Virginia live in poverty while that number is 11.4 percent for non-veterans in 2014.

Clearly the location of the Pentagon in Arlington, and being adjacent to the nation's capital would mean more veterans, and higher attaining veterans would settle here. Veterans contribute significantly here in Northern Virginia.

At the same time, some veterans experience significant challenges; consider that half of all veterans under 35 experience a period of un-

employment in the 15 months after leaving service.

At the last Point in Time Count of people who are literally homeless in January 2015, there were 46 homeless veterans in Fairfax County, 12 in Alexandria and 19 in Arlington (with 408 literally homeless veterans in the District of Columbia).

Forty-five percent of these homeless veterans were employed.

Coordinated efforts from local, state and federal levels have reduced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the region. Between 2011 and 2015, the region counted 138 fewer homeless veterans (19 percent reduction), using access to additional dedicated housing resources, such as HUD-VASH vouchers.

Now there is a nationwide effort, called the Mayor's Challenge, to end homelessness for veterans this year. Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have all signed onto this challenge.

Elsewhere in this paper, we report on Fairfax County's coordinated efforts to end

homelessness for veterans by the end of next month. This effort will likely be judged successful by the fact that, even though more veterans will experience housing crises, the systems will be in place to get any newly homeless veterans back into housing quickly.

A task force has been meeting every other week in Fairfax County, identifying veterans by name and coordinating efforts to get them the services they need to get them into housing. Sometimes that is help with a security deposit and a few months rent. In other cases, chronically homeless veterans need significant support to to successfully move into permanent housing. But this year, every effort is being made to meet those needs.

"We celebrated a lot this year," said Vincent Jenkins, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston. "Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed."

— MARY KIMM

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EDITORIAL

## Bumper Sticker Politics

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

Experts on communications in political campaigns advise that a message needs to be expressed in a matter of seconds—not minutes—if it is to be effective. The best political message should be able to be printed on a bumper sticker. In a world of complexities and overloaded communications channels, only the simply stated message stands a chance of getting through to voters.

Simple messages about complex issues can be misleading and can lead to bad policies. About a million dollars was spent in the most



recent cycle to convince voters that certain candidates were part of a plan to put \$17 tolls on I-66. In this instance, voters saw through the falsehoods and re-elected Delegate Kathleen Murphy and elected Jennifer Boysko to the House of Delegates. Republican incumbents who jumped on "no \$17 tolls" won re-election, but all incumbents in both parties were re-elected. The damage done with this campaign message is that it is likely to take off the table a reasonable alternative that could be considered to relieve the massive traffic conges-

tion on I-66. The fact of the matter is that there are \$17 tolls on the express lanes on I-95, but they are only imposed as they were proposed for I-66 as part of traffic demand management to keep people off the roads during the worst of the congestion. What the plan would have done was to allow single-occupant vehicles on I-66 during the morning commute time for a lesser toll that would reduce congestion on other streets and generate funds for improvements in the corridor. The proposal was developed by VDOT and had been discussed extensively with the community. To listen to the campaign rhetoric one could be led to believe that Democratic candidates had proposed it and every driver would have to pay it. Inter-

estingly, those who ran on the no tolls issue did not offer any alternatives for relieving traffic congestion.

This, of course, is not the first time that simple messages have been used to confuse and mislead voters in Virginia elections. Unfortunately, some of the messages of the past have won elections but with disastrous policy outcomes. The clever "no car tax" slogan won the governorship for Jim Gilmore many years ago, but the policy impact of the state paying part of the local taxes for persons with the biggest cars cost the state nearly a billion dollars every year since that campaign. The car tax got too high in some suburban communities that faced the expenses of grow-

SEE PLUM, PAGE 13

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A Childish Debate

To the Editor:

Even at 11 years old, I read the news. I watch the presidential debates, as well as certain news programs. Even at 11, I am worried for my future. That is why I write. My wish in writing this letter is to show how steep the hill I fear our country is going down. It doesn't have to be that way.

I believe that I am a fairly polite person. I apologize in advance if I am insulting any person's beliefs, or who people think is honest and trustworthy for the role of president. But, with no sugarcoating, the presidential debate of Wednesday, Oct. 28 was purely childish. It was more like my sixth grade classroom than what I thought a presidential debate would be like. In fact, if we spoke like that in school, speaking over each other, having no respect for others, not to mention the attacking of ques-

tions instead of answering them, we would be in great trouble. Do we want the next leader of the United States of America to be rude, impolite and interrupting? We do need a leader that demands action, but also acts with kindness and compassion. If these are our future leaders, my peers and I, the children, the future, could be left in a large mess, maybe even too large to fix.

Often children are forgotten in matters like this. I asked my Dad how a child can speak up about

this since kids cannot vote. He said to try a letter to the editor of a newspaper, so that is what I'm doing. I am eternally grateful for our current country, and even good places have problems, but if this is our future, this country's future is looking dark. Although I can't vote, I can stand. I stand for a real leader. A real president.

Shailey Pratt

Fairfax Station  
White Oaks Elementary  
School - Sixth Grade

Oak Hill & Herndon  
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A kitchen is often a hub of activity during the holidays. Small touches like new cabinet hardware can add polish to the space.



JOHN COLE PHOTO

## Getting Guest-Ready

Local designers offer solutions for easy, pre-holiday updates.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Getting ready for the holidays means more than simply hanging decorations and ordering a turkey with trimmings. For many, the holidays usher in an abundance of house guests. While there might not be time to complete a remodeling project or build an addition, local designers offer suggestions for minor tweaks that can breathe new life into a living space so that it is guest-ready when the holidays arrive.

Starting with a home's exterior, outdoor lighting that highlights the walkway and facade of the house is a simple update, according to Kai Tong, director of architecture at Hopkins and Porter. "Low voltage lighting can also accentuate the steps leading to the front door, as well as [line voltage] lighting illuminating ... [plants] and trees."

Tong also recommends upgrading a home's interior lighting fixtures, such as sconces and dining room chandeliers. In fact, he said dimmer switches create ambiance. "Low voltage lighting, including cable-mounted lighting, can bring new brilliance to spaces."

A coat of paint can also brighten a home in time for the holidays. "You don't need to paint the entire home at once to make a great impression for your guests," said Marty Cornish, CEO of EasyPaint. "Think about rooms you'll be using the most and then devise a plan."

Rooms where most of the holiday decor will be displayed as well as the dining room where meals will be served are good starting points, said Cornish.

"Consider selecting a wall in perhaps a guest room and painting it an exquisite accent color," adds Tong. "The same goes with public spaces such as the kitchen."

Painting a home's main entry door or trim is another simple way to welcome guests in style. "The front door makes an immediate first impression," said Tracy Morris, color consultant and principal of Tracy Morris Design.

"You don't need to paint the entire home at once to make a great impression for your guests. Think about rooms you'll be using the most and then devise a plan."

— Marty Cornish, CEO of EasyPaint

Morris suggests using Benjamin Moore's Soot for the front door. "The rich color is festive and fun and makes the perfect backdrop for holiday decor, as well as provides a lasting first impression."

Replacing the front door or updating the hardware on an existing door, updating lighting fixtures at the door or on a porch enhances a home's curb appeal, says Ken Hurdle, Hopkins and Porter project coordinator.

The kitchen, powder room and guest bathroom are usually hubs of hospitality during the holidays, and a polished appearance can be accomplished with a few minor tweaks.

In a guest bathroom, simple fixes include new vanity or sink hardware, new medicine cabinets and vanity lighting. "Check and see if accessories such as towel bars [and] paper holders could also use an easy recharge," said Tong.

Kohler's Moxi shower head holds a wireless speaker, "so you can enjoy your music while showering," said Nancy Knickerbocker, designer, Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield.

In the kitchen, minor touches can yield a major impact. "Kitchen 'lite' projects are a great way to spruce up your space if you're redesigning on a small budget and have great existing cabinets in your kitchen," said Stephanie Brick, designer at Nicely.

This can include new hardware on kitchen cabinets and new faucets, according to Hurdle.

These projects include upgrading counter tops with quartz or granite and adding a coordinating tile back splash or other kitchen accents like crown molding to the ceiling or chair rail molding. "These seemingly small details, when put together in a design package," said Brick, "can have a great impact on the overall look of your kitchen."

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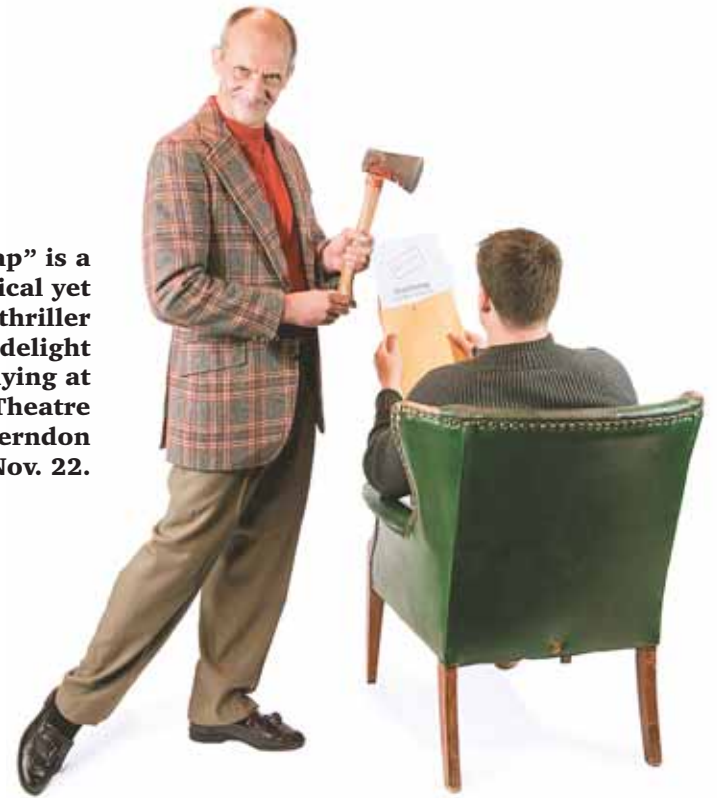
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# CALENDAR

**"Deathtrap" is a hysterical yet terrifying thriller sure to delight playing at NextStop Theatre in Herndon through Nov. 22.**



Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

**Herndon High JROTC Fundraiser.** 5-8 p.m. Herndon Potbelly, 901 Herndon Parkway, Herndon. Please join us for some food, fun and goodwill. Potbelly will donate 25 percent of sales to support Herndon NJROTC.

### ONGOING

**One-Man Shows.** Through Nov. 14. Exhibit Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. One-Man Shows from David Cochran and Joseph Sheppard Rogers.

**Deathtrap.** Time varies. Thursday-Sunday, through Nov. 22. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Keep up with the twists and turns... if you dare. Deathtrap is a hysterical yet terrifying thriller sure to delight. \$35. [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org). 866-811-4111.

**Ethereal and Natural Reactions.** Through Sunday, Dec. 6. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Ethereal is series of abstract, contemporary art paintings by artist Anne Cherubim. In Natural Reaction, sculptor Brian Kirk reshapes and twists steel into new forms using blacksmithing techniques that focus on the beauty of rust as a surface treatment. Free. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/ethereal-and-natural-reaction>. 703-956-6590.

**Portrait and Figure Painting with Jordan Xu.** Wednesdays, Nov. 4-Dec. 23. 7-10 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Come and learn how to paint portraits and figures in oil, acrylic or pastel from a live model. In this class you will gain the knowledge of basic painting concepts and techniques such as value, color temperature, composition and transition. Step-by-step instructions will take you through the entire process of a painting. Fee: \$250. Registration required at <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/portrait-and-figure-painting-with-jordan-xu/>. For more information, call 703-956-6590.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

**Tag Day Concert.** 7 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Tag Day concert to thank the community for their generous donations during the band's Tag Day fundraising event held in September. Free.

**Rascal Raccoons.** 10-11 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Make a raccoon mask and tail craft, then dress up like a raccoon to go in search of what a raccoon needs. Explore the forest to look for food, water and shelter that is just right for this furry, forest creature. Cost: \$7/resident; \$9/non-resident. Reservations at [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org) or 703-476-9689.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 13

**Senior Tea.** 1-2 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Every month seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea on the second Friday of the month. Free. 703-956-6590.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 13-14

**The Closet's "Everything Christmas Sale."** Friday, 4-7 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon. The First Baptist Church of Herndon, 681 Elden St., Herndon. Get a jump start on your holiday decorating or choose something unique for that hard-to-please relative. [www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org](http://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 14.

**Artist Reception Ethereal and Natural Reactions.** 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Ethereal is series of abstract, contemporary art paintings by artist Anne Cherubim. In Natural Reaction, sculptor Brian Kirk reshapes and twists steel into new forms using blacksmithing techniques that focus on the beauty of rust as a surface treatment. Exhibit runs from Tuesday, Nov. 3 to Sunday, Dec. 6. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/ethereal-and-natural-reaction>. 703-956-6590.

**Community Irish Dance.** 6:30-10 p.m. Frying Pan Park Visitors Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Family Friendly CCE community Irish CEILI Dance featuring music by Old Pitch and Friends. Ceili and set dances are called by Marilyn Moore. \$7.50-\$35. [borlinset@yahoo.com](mailto:borlinset@yahoo.com). 703-631-9179. [cceptomac.org](http://cceptomac.org).

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stock up on books for the holidays. Fiction, non-fiction, children, adults, romance, history, cookbooks, gift books, etc. Come spend a little, get a lot. Sponsored by Friends of the Herndon Fortnightly Library.

### SUNDAY/NOV. 15

**Jazzart Concert.** 5-7 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. jazz vocal stylist Kitt Potter has a show at ArtSpace Herndon to the backdrop of Ethereal and Natural Reactions. Kitt will be accompanied by Wayne Wilentz (Shirelles, Marvelettes, SKYY) on piano, David Jernigan on bass and Douglas Richardson on drums. \$15. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/jazzart-concert/>. 703-956-6590.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 28

**Jimmy Gaudreau and Orrin Star.** 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Bluegrass musicians who have been with some of the top bands in the genre over their 20 plus years in the music business. Jimmy is a master mandolin player and Orrin is a champion flat picking guitar player. Together

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

they blend voices, instruments and sense of humor that make for a great night of music and fun. \$15, free to children under 12. 703-435-8377.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 29

**Mini-Train Rides.** 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. 11900 Market Street, Reston. All aboard for rides up and down Market Street, departing in front of Talbots beside Fountain Square. Donated fee benefits local charities. Presented by Reston Town Center. For more information, visit <http://restontowncenter.com/index.php>.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 3-6

**2015 Annual Holiday Mini Sale.** Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Gift-quality books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages. Cash or checks only.

## Narnia at Herndon High School.

7:30-9:45 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m. Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. CS Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," dramatized by Joseph Robinette. \$10, \$12. 703-401-0428. [www.herndonrama.org](http://www.herndonrama.org).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 4

**Gingerbread Village at Reston Hyatt.** 11900 Market Street, Reston. Enjoy the annual display in the hotel lobby, throughout the holiday season. For more information, call 703-709-1234 or visit <http://reston.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>.

## Community Holiday

**Performances.** 6 p.m. Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musical performances by community group from River Bend Middle School, Raven Jazz, River Bend Jazz and River Bend Chamber Music.

**TGIF-Free Fridays at Greater Reston Arts Center.** 5-7 p.m. An evening of family art-making and storytelling. 703-471-9242. [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**Community Holiday Performances.** 2 p.m. Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musical performances by Rhythm Street Dance.

**Yule Log Tasting at Edibles Incredible.** All day. Free tastes of holiday yule log and pre-order promotion. Free gift with purchase. 703-709-8200. [ediblesincredible.com](http://ediblesincredible.com).

## Handmade Holiday Ornaments Workshop.

9:30-11 a.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., #103, Reston. Sign up the whole family for this fun workshop led by GRACE staff to make some fun, creative ornaments. Children must be accompanied by a participating adult. 703-471-9242. Register at [restoncommunitycenter.org](http://restoncommunitycenter.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 6

**Holiday Arts and Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. A variety of handcrafted items and fine art will be on sale including wreaths, quilts, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, decorations, original artwork, photography, stained glass and more. Visit [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).

**Run with Santa 5K.** 8:30 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11911 Democracy Drive, Reston. Word on the street is he's been training like a champion. Are you ready to Run with Santa? Register at <http://www.prraces.com/runwithsanta>.

**Holiday Caroling in the Closet.** 4-6 p.m. The Closet, 845 Station St., Herndon. Listen to carolers, shop, enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies, and more. Santa will pose for pictures with kids of all ages. Please join the fun and bring a canned or boxed nonperishable food item to support the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries Food Bank. Free. [www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org](http://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org). [www.dranesville.org](http://www.dranesville.org).

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## VETERANS DAY

# Fairfax County To End Veteran

By MARY KIMM  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ameel Mubaarik of Reston is a 63-year-old Army veteran and mechanical engineer, a former Reston homeowner. He served in the Army in Europe during the Cold War, and among many positions since, worked for Bechtel on the Silver Line and for NASA at the Goddard Space Center.

But a layoff, divorce and a short-sale on his home left Mubaarik homeless, for a time living in a hotel.

Then last May he had a stroke.

"I never thought I would be homeless, but you never know," he said.

Vincent Jenkins, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston calls Mubaarik "the Historian," for his recall of Northern Virginia events, and professorial narrative.

Mubaarik is ready to move out of the homeless shelter and into housing, and as part of a national effort to end veteran homelessness, he'll be looking at possible apartments next week.

In December 2014, Fairfax County joined the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, a nationwide effort with a tight deadline — the end of this year. In Fairfax County, it's an effort that will in all likelihood be successful.

"At the end of the calendar year, will we have functionally ended veteran homelessness in Fairfax County?" said Tom Barnett, program manager with the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. While some veterans here will still experience housing crisis, there will be systems in place designed to get them into housing quickly.

Functionally ending veteran homelessness, according to the Mayors Challenge, means that every community has a sustainable, systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. That's the mantra for ending and preventing homeless for all: Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring.

Veterans made up 46 of the 1,204 people who were homeless on Jan. 28, 2015 in the 2015 Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness. A dozen to 15 veterans become homeless every month, but because of ongoing collaboration, most are "rapidly rehoused." While 96 veterans came



FILE PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**In February 2013, volunteers looking to interview chronically homeless people found encampments like this scattered around the area, usually near major shopping areas, but sometimes in isolated fields. Not all encampments had tents for people to sleep, often found were old couches and sleeping bags, or temporary shelter made of cardboard, plastic and scrap pieces of wood.**

into hypothermia shelters last winter season, at the end of October, Barnett reported that there were 17 homeless veterans in the county, and that all 17 were in the process of being housed.

"We owe something to veterans. to the people who have made that sacrifice for us," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who signed onto the Mayors Challenge. She notes that the sacrifice veterans make is measures in time, and in uncertainty.

"When you look at the issue of veterans, the sacrifice is spending time away from the community and from their families," she said. "With that time away comes the potential for coming back changed; that could be physically changed and harmed, and some of the harm might not be physical. Psychological changes might not be visible. We can't turn our backs on people who have been affected that way."

Of the 46 veterans identified in the Point in Time count in January, 15 were chronically homeless. Housing people who have been chronically homeless is not a quick transition; it requires supportive housing and ongoing services. Someone is identified as chronically homeless if they have been continuously homeless for a year or more and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the last four years, a sequence of events that often comes with untreated illnesses, mental health is-

sues and/or substance abuse.

A task force consisting of representatives from nonprofits like FACETS, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Service and Cornerstones, plus the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Community Service Board, the health department and other partners has been meeting every other week since the county joined the challenge. At the meetings, the partners discuss the individual veterans they are seeking to house by name, and focus attention and resources on overcoming challenges.

"At the task force meetings, we celebrated a lot this year," said Vincent Jenkins of Cornerstones, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston. "Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed. ... Fairfax plays really well together. We are really trying to make a major dent in homelessness, and we are doing that."

The "tremendously impactful" tool of choice is the VASH voucher, said Barnett. The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program combines rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Once a veteran has been approved for a housing voucher and gets into housing, Veterans Affairs deploys a team to help with transition from the shelter to housing, one of the benefits of the nationwide challenge.

The effort to end homelessness for veterans comes with a different level of community support, too.

"In the community, there is so much en-

ergy and interest to end homelessness for veterans who have served our country," said Dean Kline, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Partners and community groups are engaged "because of their passion for helping veterans who have served our country."

**NOT ALL VETERANS** who are experiencing homelessness are ready to accept housing, but ongoing outreach by local nonprofits ensures continuing progress. Sometimes it takes years simply to identify that someone is a veteran if that individual is resistant to sharing information.

One man now in line for housing hovered for eight years at the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter on Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir. While he would seem pleasant, when anyone tried to engage him or ask questions, he became verbally aggressive and expressed anti-government sentiments, said Tonya Golden, director of Programs for Single Adults at New Hope Housing. He was part of the overflow shelter program, operated in a trailer outside the main building, coming for food and shelter.

"He was resistant to service," Golden said.

"We never knew he was a veteran."

But with ongoing efforts, the man, now "up in age," developed a rapport with one outreach person, and agreed to sign up for housing. As they filled out the information

needed, he made reference to his service. New Hope Housing submitted his name to Veterans Affairs, discovering that he served 14 years including in Vietnam, was honorably discharged and entitled to benefits.

Now he's qualified for a VASH voucher, is working with housing case managers and will move into an apartment with supportive services soon.

Most veterans who arrive at a shelter do not have the critical documentation they need.

New Hope Housing opened Veterans House, a home with case management services for four veterans, where the veteran doesn't have to sign a lease.

"We take veterans who have challenges leasing up, so it's in our name," Golden said. "These are the clients that we work with, they are ready to move forward. ... There's no judgment."

Clients who have criminal records or other issues that might prevent them from being approved for a lease still need housing.

Golden is a military spouse, her husband is career army, a lieutenant colonel. They lived for a time on Fort Belvoir. "We've been doing this for a long time," she said. "It's personal for me that our soldiers are connected to the services they are entitled to."

**THE DAILY ROUTINE** for Richard Davis, a veteran and a single dad: Davis sleeps at

**"In my heart, I feel like I have a lot to give."**

— Richard Davis, single dad, was living at the Kennedy Shelter by Fort Belvoir

**"At the task force meetings, we celebrated a lot this year. Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed."**

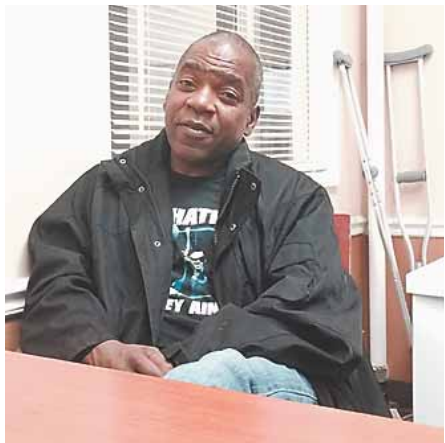
— Vincent Jenkins, director, Embry Rucker Shelter, Reston

## Details

Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm)

# Homelessness

Each homeless veteran has a story, and a path to housing.



PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

**Richard Davis, a single dad and veteran who has been chronically homeless, moved into a three-bedroom home with his children last week with supports from New Hope Housing.**

the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir, while his two young children sleep at a nearby friend's house. In the morning, Davis gets his children ready for the day, drives his son, 4, to a program that addresses the son's intellectual disabilities and then Davis cares for his daughter, 2, who has health issues. He picks his son up in the afternoon, and later, after he gets his children dinner and puts them to bed, he heads back to the shelter to sleep.

At least that was the routine until last Thursday, when New Hope Housing was able to place him in permanent supportive housing with three bedrooms for him and his two children.

Davis served in the Navy. Then he served 25 years in prison, and was released in 2008.

"With a 25-year gap, no one is going to give you the kind of job you need to take care of yourself," Davis said. He worked three jobs at one time, but still didn't earn enough to support his family. And now the full time care of his children presents other challenges.

Davis trained as a paralegal in prison. "I have five habeas corpus briefs under my belt," he said. But when he applied for jobs at law firms when he was released, his prison record kept him from employment.

Davis speaks in a deep voice that reflects the sense that he expected more of himself. He describes himself as "disheartened" by his lack of accomplishment since being released in 2008. He's educated and well-spoken, it's clear that his children bring him joy, and that now getting this part right means the world to him.

"You know you have aspirations when you're younger. You have goals. And you're not really achieving them. I'm dealing with my mortality now," he said. "I have 10-11

more years. I'm living for my children. It's my responsibility to turn out good human beings. ... I want them to be able to go to Dad and to know they will answer to Dad. They are the love of my life."

"In my heart, I feel like I have a lot to give," Davis said.

**NOT ALL VETERANS** in need of housing are men.

One woman veteran who had served in the Army for three years, emerged struggling with mental illness. She stopped taking her medication, and got into trouble with law. She was receiving services from Northern Virginia Family Services, and was one of the homeless veterans discussed by name at the task force meetings, said Barbara Schultheiss, program director of Services for Single Adults at FACETS in Fairfax.

"So many people just need help with a security deposit and a few months rent," Schultheiss said. "But some need more support."

FACETS operates permanent supportive housing, and when a vacancy opened up there, Schultheiss coordinated her move into a new apartment.

"She's very independent, and she loves her apartment," Schultheiss said. But she also talks about Vladimir Putin as her husband, and dances around her living room with his photo. In her new home, she'll get case management services to help keep her in housing.

There is evidence of long-term success, too.

One Navy veteran lived 17 years in the woods, and has now lived in FACETS housing for seven years with support after serving in the Navy with awards.

"He comes with his own slew of medical problems," said Schultheiss, who was his case manager in 2008, and helped track down his service record.

He told her, "If it wasn't for the FACETS program I'd be dead."

Schultheiss asked him why he left the Navy. "Being on a ship with a bunch of guys, it just got old," he said.

But after that, he couldn't get a job that would pay the bills.

**VETERANS WHO HAVE** recently been in service have been in an environment where they have had one important job, protecting the country, and their basic needs like



**The Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway.**

housing, food, schedule and health, have been cared for in a very structured way, said Barnett. "They find themselves on the street without any of that. They've had a job to focus on, but now they have to worry about how to take care of themselves," he said, and their frustration in the new circumstances can be extreme.

Veterans can also be among the most vulnerable of people experiencing homelessness, chronically homeless and living in the woods.

"Their basic training has prepared them to be out there, to withstand some things that most people cannot," said Vincent Jenkins of Cornerstones of challenges of even getting some veterans who have lived outdoor for a long time into the shelter. "It's not always a good fit for them here in the shelter."

Reaching out to the most vulnerable homeless is helped in part by work done in 2013 when nonprofit volunteers, county employees and others went out into the woods and other areas, creating an inventory and conducting interviews. Fairfax County participated in the national 100,000 Homes campaign, ranking chronically homeless people on the vulnerability index that indicates who is a greatest risk of death.

Of more 462 people surveyed, 10 percent were veterans.

Veterans who have lived outside for an extended period are also more likely to be resistant to services.

At the Embury Rucker Shelter, staff uses the "BOLO" protocol as part of their outreach efforts. That's "be on the lookout." They know which veterans they need to reach, and when one of them comes in the door for a bagged lunch or anything else, outreach staff is alerted so someone can come to interact.

While Vietnam-era vets who are homeless are more likely to be among those that are extra resistant to coming indoors, their advancing age sometimes makes them more willing. Homeless veterans of any of the Gulf Wars are more likely to be dealing with PTSD, but also are more likely to be able to jump right back into housing after a crisis with some financial help, said several homeless advocates.

"Their symptoms are related to the trauma they experienced in war," said Greg White, chief operating officer at Cornerstones. "Their coping mechanisms include alcohol, substance abuse."

"One guy who had been living out in the woods told me about the adjustment he had to make to living in a house," White said. Sometimes people who have moved into housing still come back to the shelter, or even the woods, to visit. "Those social connections mean a lot to them."

Outreach during the very cold months when chronically homeless are more likely to come to the shelters, and also the Health Care for the Homeless programs offer opportunities for outreach that can eventually lead to enough trust for veterans to give information that will help get them into housing.

While some veterans are chronically homeless, living with physical disabilities or mental health issues that can be barriers to moving into new homes, it's a shortage of affordable housing that is still the biggest barrier to ending homelessness, for veterans and others. Many veterans are severely rent burdened, said White and others. Even when they can find a job, it's rare they can find employment that will pay enough to cover their needs.



**The overflow services trailer on the grounds of the Kennedy Shelter.**

# SPORTS

## South Lakes Football to Host Oakton in 6A North Playoffs

Seahawks beat Fairfax, finish regular season with 8-2 record.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter compiling its best regular-season record in more than 15 years, the South Lakes football team will host a playoff game for the first time since 2010.

The Seahawks finished the regular season 8-2, earned the No. 6 seed in the 6A North region and will host No. 11 Oakton (5-5) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13 in the opening round of the playoffs.

South Lakes closed the regular season with a 46-7 home victory over Fairfax on Nov. 6. It was the fourth time this year the Seahawks defeated an opponent by at least 37 points. The win secured South Lakes' best regular-season record in more than 15 years, according to vhs1-reference.com, which tracks South Lakes records back to 1999. The Seahawks finished with a 7-3 regular-season record in 2010, 2002 and 1999.

"I think it's great," said Trey Taylor, who is in his second season as South Lakes head coach. "... I'm happy for the kids. When I came in ... I asked them to put in more work than they were used to and some of them looked at me like I was crazy. ... I'm happy



Eric Kirlaw (1) and the South Lakes football team will host Oakton at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13 in the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

for the kids because they trusted me and now they're seeing [the results]."

**SOUTH LAKES** will host an Oakton team that it scrimmaged prior to the 2015 season. The Cougars finished with a 5-5 record, including 2-3 in Conference 5, which is annually one of the toughest conferences in the region.

"I think they're extremely well coached, tough up front, disciplined," Taylor said. "... They're going to present a huge challenge

for us."

While Oakton presents a challenge for South Lakes, the Seahawks enter the postseason playing well, Taylor said, including a pair of strong defensive performances to close the regular season. After losing to Madison 38-6 and allowing 42 points in a win over Langley, South Lakes shut out Hayfield in the second half of a 35-14 win and held Fairfax to a single touchdown.

This year, South Lakes is surrendering an average of 16.2 points per game. Last year,

opponents averaged 33.6 points against the Seahawks, who finished 2-8.

"I feel like we're playing pretty well," Taylor said. "[Against] Langley and Madison, our defense didn't play well. ... The past two weeks, the defense has really stepped up and played better. That to me is the key. ... That to me is what has been different about this year is our ability to keep people from scoring a ton of points."

Offensively, South Lakes has been led by senior receiver Eric Kirlaw, who caught four passes for 58 yards and carried three times for 58 yards and two touchdowns against Fairfax on Nov. 6. Kirlaw finished the regular season with 30 receptions for 605 yards and eight touchdowns, and 45 carries for 449 yards and five scores.

"Eric Kirlaw keeps getting better each week," Taylor said. "It seems difficult for people to keep him out of the end zone."

Sophomore quarterback Devin Miles completed 13 of 15 passes for 211 yards and a touchdown against Fairfax. He completed 67 percent of his passes during the regular season for 1,635 yards, with 18 touchdowns and four interceptions. During a 48-42 win over Langley on Oct. 23, Miles completed 29 of 37 attempts for 493 yards, with six touchdowns and one interception.

**THE WINNER** of Friday's South Lakes/Oakton game will face the winner of No. 3 Westfield and No. 14 Washington-Lee.

"I think they do believe," Taylor said, "that we can go out and compete with anyone."

## Herndon Coach Honored for Work Empowering Girls

Doreen Peters will receive the Crystal Coach Award on Saturday, Nov. 21 in a pre-race ceremony that kicks off the Girls on the Run 5K, presented by Innovation Health in Woodbridge.

Peters is one of the organization's longest-serving volunteers, having mentored more than 300 girls over 20 seasons as a Girls on the Run coach — first at Floris Elementary School in Herndon, and this season at Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary in Herndon.

Other Crystal Coach award recipients include: Aliceson Johnson Wirth of Kent Gardens ES in McLean, Carla Maughlin of Lemon Road ES in Falls Church, Carla Prokop of Rolling Valley ES in West Springfield, Rena Rose of Centre Ridge ES in Centreville, Gwendolynn Gall of Navy ES in Fairfax, and Cori Lonnett of Westbriar ES in Vienna. Together, the women have coached a combined 94 seasons and have mentored more than 1,400 girls.

Crystal Coaches are a group of thirteen Northern Virginia women who are committed to making a difference in the lives of girls. Each woman has served as a volunteer coach for 10 or more seasons with Girls on the Run — an after-school



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Doreen Peters, of Great Falls, will receive the Crystal Coach Award from Girls on the Run.**

that equips girls with lifelong skills that will help them develop into strong, healthy, confident young women. The 10-week season culminates in a celebratory 5k run with more than 5,000 girls, parents, teachers and community members completing a 3.1 mile run.

Peters said that "Seeing girls conquer their personal anxieties/fears (often associated with speaking up in the group or doing the 5K) and seeing their confidence grow," inspired her. And the Girls on the Run program gives girls the "confidence to go out and do good things that may be outside their current comfort zone."

For more information about Girls on the Run visit <http://gotrnova.org/>.

## South Lakes Runners Compete in Regional Championship

**South Lakes High School's sophomore Anna Prater placed 64th among 155 runners in Northern Region 6A Championship Meet girls race on Nov. 4 at Burke Lake Park (2.98 miles). In the boys race, South Lakes' John LeBerre placed 83rd among 116 runners.**



PHOTO BY BY ED LULL

## Madison Volleyball Wins Conference Championship

The Madison volleyball team swept top-seed Langley on Nov. 5 to repeat as Conference 6 champions.

The Warhawks entered the tournament as the No. 3 seed and lost just one set in three matches.

Madison won its 6A North region tournament opener against T.C. Williams, 3-0, on Monday. The Warhawks faced Osbourn Park on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The winner will face either West Springfield or Patriot in the region semifinals on Thursday, Nov. 12.

Langley swept South County in the region tournament on Monday. The Saxons faced Oakton on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

## Langley Football Beats McLean, Wins Rotary Cup

The Langley football team ended the season with a 27-7 road victory over rival McLean on Nov. 6, winning the Rotary Cup.

After dropping seven of their first eight games, Langley closed the season with back-to-back victories, including a 48-23 win over Yorktown on Oct. 30 during the Saxons' final home game of the season.

# WEEK IN HERNDON

## Volunteers Needed for Food Packing Event

Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites community members to help pack food for the Weekend Food for Kids program, which benefits 1,500 schoolchildren who receive reduced-price meals during the week. The next food packing event is at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19 at Dominion Virginia Power, 3072 Centreville Road in Herndon. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. if you would like to help with setup. Event contact: karenamster@aol.com.

## Felony Fire Setting

On Nov. 9, investigators charged three Herndon juveniles with setting two outside fires on Oct. 16

at Runnymede Park.

Runnymede is approximately 58 acres and is located within the Town of Herndon. According to Fire and Rescue reports, the male juveniles were charged with a class six felony of "one count of Virginia Code 18.2-86, setting fire to woods, fences, grass." They were also charged with one count "of Virginia Code 27-100/305.4.1, mischievous fire play involving the burning leaves and paper near the Carroll House inside the park; a

class one misdemeanor."

The Carroll House, a stone house built in 1909, is listed on the Virginia Historical Registry.

## App Offers Guide to Beginner Bikers in Herndon

The My City Bikes Northern Vir-

ginia app created in partnership between My City Bikes and A-1 Cycling is a free beginner's guide to local biking throughout Herndon. My City Bikes Northern Virginia can be downloaded for Apple or Android devices on the iTunes or Google Play app stores.

Beginner friendly experts at A-1 Cycling can be accessed through the local My City Bikes Northern Virginia app for advice and support. They specialize in gear just for female riders, including bi-

cycles designed specifically for women's and girls' unique physiology. My City Bikes, powered by Interbike, is a public health campaign for beginner cyclists. The web and mobile campaign benefits communities by providing simple, localized mobile resources and media advocacy to facilitate cycling.

For more information and to access the local app, visit <http://www.mycitybikes.org/virginia.html>.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

**"Amending the U.S. Constitution by a Convention Vote."** 7:30-9 p.m. Hunter Mill District Community Room B, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The U.S. Constitution has never been amended by means of a constitutional convention as authorized by Article V of the U.S. Constitution, but recent pushes from both the right and left for such a convention suggest that the time for considering all of the relevant issues, questions and procedures is at hand. Free. [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

## Plum

FROM PAGE 6

ing school populations and other services, but under the Dillon Rule they had no other options for raising revenue. The Gilmore proposal had the policy effect of taking from the poor and giving to the rich. The state's share of school funding went down because of the gimmick to end the car tax. It was a simple message to a complex problem that led to unfortunate results. The campaign to "end parole" that got George Allen elected has led to jails and prisons being overcrowded with persons who should have alternatives to incarceration. Somehow "use tolling to ease traffic," "reform the tax structure," or "reform parole" did not have the same ring to them as the bumper-sticker messages that win elections but can lead to unfortunate consequences.



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# Small Talk in a Big Way



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

No way, actually. In my nearly seven years of cancer-induced doctor's appointments, scan appointments, lab work and miscellaneous other recurring occasions to be sitting/idling in waiting rooms, never before last week's pre-chemotherapy lab work had I been so chatted up by a fellow member waiting for their name to be called.

The circumstances were not particularly unique; it's not as if there was a two-for-one/half-price special that day. It was just another day - not in paradise, at the lab, of which I've had my share. It was crowded this day and because of seat non-availability, I was forced to sit up close and personal between two other patients. We weren't exactly touching one another, but there was some proximity that had the room been less occupied, there likely would have been fewer eyes making contact.

Before I had even completed my half-turn, "bassackwards" descent into my single chair, the self-described grandmother and church-goer to my standing right/sitting left said to me - quite unsolicited I might add, with zero provocation from yours truly: "Look outside!" After landing in my chair, I craned my neck back around to "look," anticipating an incident/accident of some kind. Instead, I saw blue skies and a bright shiny sun, and said as much to my new temporary neighbor and then asked if I was missing something. She said "No." And then elaborated on how it was a beautiful day and how such days make her so happy and yada, yada, yada; yada, yada, yada. (It didn't stop there, if you catch my prose.)

Apparently noticing my rather cool (not hip) demeanor in not responding to her observation/opinion, she started on the man immediately sitting to her left. He was from Ethiopia. Oh. The pastor at her church was from Ethiopia and the congregation used to be old but now thanks to him... and on and on and on; fortunately not directed at me, but obviously within earshot. Soon however, his name was called and his seat remained unoccupied long enough for grandma to return her conversation back to me and begin to recount the information about the man with whom she had just been conversing: Ethiopian, a pastor, his young wife, their young children, the congregation; and on and on and on. Again, my lack of enthusiasm was likely evident in my barely audible responses to her comments and before too long, the vacated seat to her left was taken by a mother and her nine-month-old baby girl. Sure enough, the conversation soon left me and went over to the mother and her "beautiful baby." Within a few short minutes (in time), my neighbor's name was called (mercifully) and off she went into the lab. As she pulled open the door, she turned back to me, waived and smiled. I smiled back and said: "Break a leg." To which she responded something like: "Oh. You never want to..." but I had lost my focus and she was practically through the door into the lab and no more was there time and place to listen. Thankfully, the exchange, such as it was, was over (and she had just started asking about my job, too; what next? What was I in for?) I don't want to sound like Humphrey Bogart from Casablanca here, but: Of all the hospital waiting areas, of all the HMO waiting rooms, of all the labs, of all the clinics, she had to walk into mine. Don't let this play out again, Sam; it was an intrusion of sorts. Well-intended, I presume, and perhaps a little nervous energy at play; but as Kenny Rogers would say/sing: "You got to know when to fold 'em, know when to hold 'em."

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

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## NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Guest speaker from Houzz, Lindsey Thudin, shared information on how to use the Houzz platform for your next home remodel project.

## Houzz Celebrates Fifth Anniversary in D.C. Area

Open Houzz DC at Dulles Electric Supply celebrated the fifth year anniversary of Houzz coming to the D.C. metro area on Thursday, Oct. 22. Houzz is a home renovation platform. Over 250 homeowners, interior designers and other home remodeling professionals came together for a night of food, networking and education on latest home remodeling trends and tips for getting the most out of your Houzz profile. The evening kicked off with free continuing education courses provided by sponsors Legrand and Hubbardton Forge. Guest speaker was Lindsey Thudin, Indus-

try Marketing for Houzz.

Crowd favorite Marko the Magician and Hypnotist was back for the fifth time in a row to perform up close magic throughout the evening. The night concluded with over \$5,000 in door prizes given away from sponsors. "This annual event is all about connecting homeowners and home remodeling professionals under the same roof for education, networking, food and fun," said Sharina Mendoza, director of marketing for Dulles Electric Supply Corp. For more information, go to <http://www.dulleselectric.com/about-dulles/>.



Trip Speight of Legrand and Bruce Hathaway of Hubbardton Forge presented free continuing education courses prior to the event for home remodeling professionals.

### FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or [www.trinityherndon.org](http://www.trinityherndon.org).

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m., for the general public which

use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**St. Anne's Episcopal Church**, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Morning prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or [www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org).

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis.

Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

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