

2016  
VIRGINIA  
PRESS  
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Newspaper


# Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

## WELLBEING

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Little Man - 11 month old Raphael Tellez — is boogying down to the 60s and 70s pop sound at the Herndon Labor Day Festival. Andrea and Carlos Tellez of Chantilly brought their youngster to the event, to let him “do a bit of running around where we can have a good time, too.”

# Herndon Celebrates

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## Herndon Artist Displays Art In Town And D.C. Embassy

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SEPTEMBER 7-13, 2016

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CONGRESSWOMAN  
**BARBARA COMSTOCK**

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**As Our Congresswoman, Barbara is Putting Children First:**



*Barbara understands the sacrifices and commitments made by educators in Virginia's 10th District and across the nation. She supports policies which empower parents and give states and localities more control over their local schools to ensure the best education for our children.*

- › The House passed Congresswoman Comstock's *Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act*, which will help young women in the STEM fields through programs at NASA.
- › Congresswoman Comstock is the **Co-Chair** of the **STARBASE Caucus**, which offers hands-on STEM education to students in elementary school. She has worked in a bipartisan manner to increase resources for this important program.
- › Congresswoman Comstock has authored the *Student Loan Relief Act*, which would offer students the ability to refinance their education loans to take advantage of lower interest rates. It would also allow employers to use pre-tax dollars to assist qualified employees in paying off student loan debt.
- › Congresswoman Comstock voted for the bipartisan *Every Student Succeeds Act*. This bill, signed into law, represented a significant step toward improving our education system and empowers educators and parents to do what is best for each individual student.

*"I come from a family of educators – my mom was a school teacher and librarian and my husband Chip is a retired Fairfax County assistant principal and teacher. My sister is a guidance counselor at a Fairfax County Public School. The education of our children and grandchildren has always been a top priority of mine. It's a privilege to represent you in Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Together, we can make sure our children receive a world class education."*

*Barbara Comstock*

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From left — Meredith and Karen Wood. Mom Karen is visiting from Michigan. “What a great way to spend the holiday! And look at this gorgeous carved pumpkin. Meredith just had to have it!”



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left — Steve Houk and Jess Robinson played at the festival in their duo persona of Houk Robinson. Once folks wandered into the Music Tent to check them out, they stayed put until the set was over, listening – and singing along – to a variety of classic rock and pop favorites. Houk says “Check us out on Facebook. We love a good crowd to sing with.”

## Herndon Celebrates

### Herndon Labor Day Festival: Great weather, great event.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he sponsors, vendors, performers and the army of volunteers who produced the 2016 Herndon Labor Day Festival no doubt worked up a sweat during the 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. event, but for the festival goers it wasn't hard work to have a lot of fun.

Children had plenty of room to run and yummy treats to enjoy, but it was the older, young-at-heart crowd that had their whims catered to with rows of wine tasting booths and craft beers to try out. “Yeah, I never miss this festival,” said Peter Tate of Ashburn. “This one seems to be for us. Even the music is stuff I actually know and like!”

With a bit of Bluegrass and Americana thrown in, the musical offerings were mostly classic rock and pop. “Songs you can sing along with,” enthused Tate, doing just that while listening to Houk Robinson – Steve Houk and Jess Robinson when not on stage – play a variety of 70s and 80s hits in the Music Tent just inside the south entrance to the festival. The duo did have them singing and tapping to the beats, while later, on center stage, groups like the 60s/70s Brit Pop/Rock band English Channel drew a crowd that added dancing to their enjoyment.

The main avenue was the place to wander for culinary temptations. The Tender



**Theresa Robertson, the winemaker at Two Twisted Posts winery in Purcellville, had her clan of daughters and a daughter-in-law, as well as grape grower husband Brad all pitching in to pour tastings for the festival goers, but their offerings were so popular, even all those hands almost weren't enough.**



**Having a swinging time at the Festival are Janel Conforti with her 7-years-old son, Julian from Falls Church.**



Rib, the Big Cheese, Rito Loco Food Truck, Island Smoothies, and Pollo Campero offered plenty of choices, just before the wine tasting section began in earnest. Eight different Virginia wineries were there to pour samples and talk about their winemaking adventures. A lot of the tasters seemed particularly delighted to actually be served by the winemakers themselves - Gina Whelan of Herndon included, as she listed to Cardamon Family Vineyards owner/winemaker Chuck Cardamon engage the crowd around their booth. “The wine is really good,” she approved, “the winemaker is really great! Really fun to listen to him.”

If beer was more to your taste than wine, never fear. Blue Mountain Brewery, Devils Backbone Brewing Company, Forge Brew Works, Mad Fox Brewery, and South Street Brewery were all on hand to cater to that liquid liking, as well. And throughout, the music kept playing.

Craft vendors were also well represented and seemed to be doing a brisk business with the festival attendees. Vendors Rachel Boone and Todd Suits from Culpeper were first timers at the festival, selling handmade crafts, woodworks, and chainsaw carvings. The pair were pleased with the response to their goods. “We're working, *and* having a good time,” said Suits. There were plenty of other art objects, crafts and services to make for happy wandering, with tacos or wine glasses in hand.

The Town of Herndon Department of Parks and Recreation and the Herndon Woman's Club highlight the many sponsors of the event, as well as spearheading the volunteers who kept the whole thing going smoothly.

**Enjoying the Festival sights and sounds – and the beer, wine and treats – from a shady picnic vantage point.**

# OPINION

## Back to School

### Conversation and listening: top priorities for back to school.

**D**on't be afraid. Asking questions with respect and listening to the answers is one of the most important things we can all do as we head back to school.

Parents, go ahead and ask your students what they think about what's happening at school, what their plans are. Listen to the answers. Parents, go ahead and ask teachers about expectations, motivations and their philosophies and approaches on teaching. Attend back-to-school night if you can. Figure out how you will communicate with teachers.

Students, indulge your parents for five minutes a day. Answer a question or two. Share something interesting that happened during the day. Try to tell them why some things make a difference to you.

**GRATITUDE:** An excellent way to help wrestle back-to-school concerns into perspective is to count blessings and consider how to help someone wrestling harder things.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, of students headed back to school this week in Northern Virginia are experiencing homelessness. In Fairfax County, you can find ways to volunteer to help homeless students by contacting the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, 703-324-9492.

**SAFETY:** We do know to slow down in school zones, watch for darting pedestrians, stop for school buses with flashing lights. Buckle

seatbelts. But probably the most important conscious step you can take for safety on the roads around schools and everywhere else is to resolve not to engage in distracted driving. Put your phone down. Students, talk to your parents about this; they could be at risk.

**Favorite Back-to-School Headline (from Fairfax County):** "Learn About School Lunches and Deer Management in the Latest News." Turns out deer management is not being incorporated into venison burgers in school lunches.

### Why Do Some Want Virginia To Be One of the Most Repressive States?

Two states allow absentee voting from prison.

Clearly that is not where we are headed in Virginia. But the restoration of voting rights moves Virginia towards the mainstream.

Virginia is one of four most restrictive states with lifetime bans on voting for those convicted of felonies.

Fourteen states automatically restore voting rights once the individual's term of incarceration is over, and two states allow absentee voting from prison.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe deserves praise for his

efforts to restore voting rights for former felons who have served their sentences. He has been thwarted at every turn by Republican members of the General Assembly, who don't appear to be done with their efforts to prevent people who have paid their "debt to society" from returning to normal, engaged lives in the community.

"If we are going to build a stronger and more equal Virginia, we must break down barriers to participation in civic life for people who return to society seeking a second chance," McAuliffe said. "We must welcome them back and offer the opportunity to build a better life by taking an active role in our democracy."

Earlier this year, the Maryland General Assembly restored the vote to all convicted felons immediately upon their release from prison. Previously, people convicted of felonies in Maryland had to complete all parole and probation before they were able to vote.

**MEANWHILE,** for all Virginia voters, the deadline to register to vote for the Nov. 8 general election is Oct. 17. You can verify your voter status at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. This is especially important to do if you have moved or have not voted recently.

In person absentee voting begins Sept. 23.

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Suicide Loss Support

BY LAURA MAYER  
DIRECTOR, PRS CRISISLINK

**W**hen I was 15 years old, I received my first "membership card" to suicide loss. I got the platinum membership card because not only was my loss to suicide, but it was also a parent.

As an adolescent this was one of those memberships that made people walk the other way and talk about you quietly. At 15 I was told my father was in a "better place," and he was no longer in pain. People also told me that he was selfish and a horrible person. I had to pick one set of beliefs to survive.

I picked the set that described his loss as one that relieved him from pain and he was better now. Little did I know, this increased my risk for suicidal thinking substantially. For the next five years, I would struggle with my own thoughts of suicide.

At 20, I lost my best friend to suicide and everything changed.

This was not supposed to happen again, and I needed to do something different. I became motivated to stop the thoughts I had, stop the losses in my community and make my world a better place to live.

I got involved with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and then CrisisLink. When I became a volunteer, I found an entire community in which suicide was openly discussed and people shared experiences like me. I found a place where I could take these horrible experiences and find meaning and energy to "do something."

Now, I am the program director of PRS CrisisLink, a McLean-based nonprofit that helps people with mental illness and those facing life crises. Every day, I am able to do something to help others either through training new crisis workers, speaking in the community or providing suicide prevention training. In addition, I manage a region-wide hotline and textline to provide an outlet



Laura Mayer

to help people cope with emotional trauma, personal and family crises. Right now, I am spearheading PRS' #MindsMatter, a social media campaign to encourage the community to pledge to do something that raises awareness about suicide prevention. This effort kicks off National Suicide Prevention Week, which takes place this week.

I wouldn't wish this club mem-

bership on anyone; but for me, the membership is a now an honor because I make a difference, and the work I do matters.

To contact our 24/7 crisis hotline or textline, call 1-800-273-TALK [8255] or text "Connect" to 85511. If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer crisis worker, please contact Lauren Padgett, [lpadgett@prsinc.org](mailto:lpadgett@prsinc.org), 703-531-6351.

Oak Hill & Herndon  
**CONNECTION**

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# NEWS

## Herndon Resident Dies at County Detention Center

Detectives from the Major Crimes Division located next of kin of the inmate who passed away at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center (ADC) on Saturday, Sept. 3. He has been identified as Kelly Maurice Scott, 53, of Herndon. Scott had been in-


carcerated at the ADC since his arrest on September 15, 2015.

The autopsy was completed on Monday, Sept. 5 by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the cause and manner of death will be included in their formal report.

Fairfax County Sheriff's Office personnel continue to cooperate fully with the Fairfax County Police Department's criminal investigation as mandated by a memorandum of understanding between the two agencies.


SEE WEEK IN HERNDON, PAGE 9

WEEK IN HERNDON



Learn as if you were to live forever; live as if you were going to die tomorrow.

—John Wooden



We didn't inherit the earth from our parents. We're borrowing it from our children.

—Chief Seattle (1788-1866) Suquamish/Duwamish chief

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# Inquiring about Vaccines

Strategies for asking another parent if their children are vaccinated.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As a new parent, Joy Baatin admits to being protective of her young son. In addition to guarding her son from household hazards such as electrical outlets and chemicals, she wants to protect him from catching a contagious disease from an unvaccinated playmate. But it's not easy to talk to other parents about vaccination, since it has become a controversial topic.

"I won't be so bold as to ask another [parent]," said Baatin, of Bethesda. "I respect that it's a matter of choice. But I wouldn't knowingly let my son play with a child who hasn't been vaccinated."

Like Baatin, many parents of young children feel uncomfortable bringing up this question. However, researchers point to outbreaks of measles in recent years. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

## Have your children's playmates had their vaccinations?

(CDC) reports that there were 189 cases of measles in 2015 and 52 in 2016 as of Aug. 15.

For that reason, it is a good idea for parents to become informed about which of their children's friends have been vaccinated, particularly for children with weakened immune systems or infants who are too young to be vaccinated. The importance outweighs the awkwardness of raising this question, and it need not be a difficult conversation to begin.

"I think it's important to recognize that,

particularly when it comes to decisions about how to raise our children, certain issues are going to be sensitive," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "It's also important to recognize that we all have different perspectives and opinions."

Approaching this topic with genuine interest in learning another parent's point of view can help quell any discomfort about engaging in this conversation. "Asking what they think about vaccines to get their opinion is a nice way to start the conversation," said Lorente. "It allows you to begin from a point of curiosity rather than judgment."

In addition to withholding judgment, maintaining an open mind and keeping conversations light-hearted and straightforward is key. "If you are able to actually avoid passing judgment and respect another parent's perspective and point of view, that will come across in a conversation," said Karen Bronco, LCSW, a psychotherapist in Arlington.

Lorente's personal experience in discuss-

## PARENTS: IT'S TIME TO IMMUNIZE

Documentation of immunization is required for children entering kindergarten and sixth grade and for new students transferring into Fairfax County Public Schools. The Fairfax County Health Department offers school required immunizations from your health care provider and at the Fairfax County Health Department's five clinics. To shorten your wait, call ahead to make and appointment.

Parents should bring the child's immunization record and insurance card to the clinic. Without an immunization record in English, the child may need to restart his or her immunization series.

## CLINIC PHONE NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS

- ❖ Herndon-Reston District Office (HRDO) 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Suite 100 Reston, VA 20190 703-481-4242, TTY 711
- ❖ Joseph Willard Health Center (JWHC) 3750 Old Lee Highway Fairfax, VA 22030 703-246-7100, TTY 711
- ❖ Mount Vernon District Office (MVDO) 8350 Richmond Highway Suite 233 Alexandria, VA 22309 703-704-5203, TTY 711
- ❖ Springfield District Office (SDO) 8136 Old Keene Mill Road Suite A100 (Cary Building) Springfield, VA 22152 703-569-1031, TTY 711
- ❖ Annandale District Office (ADO) 7611 Little River Turnpike, #400E (East Wing) Annandale, VA 22003 703-534-8343, TTY 711

ing vaccines with one of her friends reinforced her belief that parents should educate themselves about vaccinations before having a discussion on the topic.

"My friend said that she wasn't going to vaccinate her kids," said Lorente. "I asked her what she'd read about vaccines so that I could understand her point of view. As a professional, I like to look at authoritative sources when it comes to making decisions for my children. With social media it's getting harder and harder to determine what

SEE WELLBEING, PAGE 7

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## WELLBEING

# Walk to Prevent Suicide

## Walk supports survivors of suicide loss and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The Out of the Darkness Walks are American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's largest fundraiser, producing millions for suicide prevention programs, and works to unite those who have been affected by suicide, and cre-

ate communities that are "smart about mental health."

Out of the Darkness Walks connect hundreds of thousands of people to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research,

### DETAILS

Walk Date: Sept. 24, 2016  
Walk Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035  
Check-in/Registration Time: Sept. 24 at noon  
Walk in registration available noon-2 p.m.  
Walk Begins: 2 p.m. Ends: 4 p.m.  
Contact: Leigh Boswell, 571-259-0721, Karrieboswell@aol.com

create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss.

Online registration closes at noon the Friday before the walk. However, anyone who would like to participate can register in person at the walk from the time check-in begins until the walk starts. Walk donations are accepted until Dec. 31.

## Vaccines

FROM PAGE 6

those sources are, but I start with well respected organizations such as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)."

Informed decisions can be made after educating oneself about the scientific research and debunking myths about vaccines, Lorente said. One reason that parents might choose to forgo vaccinations is the now discredited belief that there is a link between vaccines and Autism spectrum disorder. The

CDC highlights multiple studies which show that there is no link.

Researchers say that it is helpful for parents of vaccinated children to know if their child's playmates have received their vaccinations. "There is still some slight risk even if your child is vaccinated, as no vaccine is 100 percent effective," said Tony Yang, ScD., associate professor of Health Administration and Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research shows vaccination reduces the probability of in-

fection substantially, but not perfectly."

As with other difficult conversations, such as asking the parents of one's child's playmates whether they own a gun, the approach and attitude parents take can make the difference between a stressful or productive conversation.

"These are all important questions and I think if we address them with an 'it takes a village' mindset and think that we're all in this together, the conversations go a lot better," said Lorente.

## Dermatology & Allergy

### SPECIALISTS OF VIRGINIA

#### Kathryn J. Sowerwine, MD



Dr. Kathryn J. Sowerwine is a board certified Allergist and Immunologist with a special interest in dermatological diseases linked to allergy. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Georgetown University Hospital and her clinical and research fellowship in allergy and immunology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

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# Herndon Artist Displays Work

Using art to share ideas of hope and eternity.

By RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

Herndon resident Vida Khadem is an artist, painter, writer, filmmaker and believer in the power of art. Born in Afghanistan, she and her family left for the United States where she was raised in Virginia. Khadem resides in the Town of Herndon, not far from Herndon Middle School. On her online biography, Khadem says she has been painting since age four. "This is what moved me, I love the arts," said Khadem.

In July, a temporary installation called "United Hearts" was created for Town of Herndon as way to show the artist's love for the country and people of America. "The project was financed by myself and by the support of few local businesses in Herndon who endorsed my thought and idea to whom I am grateful," said Khadem. The piece was on display next to Town Hall starting July 4 for two weeks and now is on display at the Garden of the Embassy of Afghanistan in D.C. Khadem also has an art exhibit, "On The Edge Of Eternity" on display at the Embassy of Afghanistan until November.

A car accident two and a half years ago led Khadem to rethink the states of life and death, inspiring what would become her next art project, "On The Edge Of Eternity," a collection of art pieces with titles such as "A Matter of Body," "What Is Time," and "The Working Ant." "Life is so fragile... all of us are here for a short amount of time," said Khadem.

Khadem studied at Herndon High School (class of 1990), George Mason University, and then studied film making and script writing at NYU. "This project was possible by a collaborative effort based on goodwill, trust and love of many people, starting with Town council of Herndon, and most importantly Mayor Merkel," stated Khadem. Khadem credits Town of Herndon Manager Art Anselene who helped shape the art project. It was also endorsed by the Embassy of Afghanistan, the cultural Attache Mr. Qarar, and Commercial Attache Mr. Musamam, who the artist says were instrumental in giving the message a greater voice.

Some of Khadem's work can be seen on Art By Vida.com/portfolio. "I like to bring freedom of the heart and mind... this is what I like to share in 'United Hearts,' I enjoy combining art with poetry. I am really humbled from all the love I have received from



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

**Artist Vida Khadem studied at Herndon Elementary through Herndon High School, and has witnessed many changes in both Herndon and Fairfax County. Khadem has welcomed the opportunity to share her artwork with local residents and art critics.**

the Town of Herndon. There has been so much disturbing news I wanted to create something positive, there is always a fight between the good and the bad," said Khadem. "Herndon has changed, it comprises people from different worlds," said Khadem.

A VIP reception was held in September at the Afghanistan Embassy in D.C. attended by Khadem, Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel and Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker. "It was an absolute joy to meet Vida and see her expression of love and unity through her artwork. The Vice Mayor and I were honored to attend the opening of her gallery exhibit at the Embassy of Afghanistan last week, where the focus was on uniting as one world, welcoming all and taking care of one another. A beautiful sentiment, and what Herndon is all about really - neighbors embracing neighbors," said Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

**Zoosday** — Every Tuesday, July through Sept. 27, 4 - 7 p.m., Pavilion. Enjoy an award-winning animal and miniature animal petting zoo with hands-on, educational experiences that children and their grownups will cherish. Kid-friendly giveaways plus activities like Legos and Play-Doh. Free. Rain or shine. [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com)

**Team Trivia at Kalypso's.** Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Bring friends and join the challenge. 703-707-0660. [www.kalypsosportstavern.com](http://www.kalypsosportstavern.com).

**Mr. Knick Knack.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays through October. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Unique, heart-centered music for kids and their grown-ups. Free. [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com). 703-579-6720

**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>.

**Dog Days of Summer** — Every Wednesday, July through Sept. 28, 4 - 7 p.m., Pavilion. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion as it is transformed weekly into an off-leash play area. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet friendly giveaways, and more! Free. [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com)

**LINEs, CURVES AND COLORS** On exhibit Aug. 31- October 2. At ArtSpace Herndon 750 Center St, Herndon, VA 20170. "Lines, Curves, and Colors" will present the talents of four artists working in different mediums. Opening reception Saturday, Sept. 9, 7 - 9 p.m. Call 703-956-9560.

**Reston Photographic Society Meetings** from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Beginning on Sept. 9 in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston, VA 20191. On the third Monday of each month through Nov. 31. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to share information and enjoy guest speakers, workshops and group critiques. Nonmembers are welcome. Visit [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org)

**FRIDAY/SEPT. 9**  
**Reston Station Music.** 6:30-8:30

p.m. Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston. Chaise Lounge. Jazz, lounge, big band, swing. 703-230-1985.

**ChalkFest At Reston Town Center** Friday noon - 11 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. 11900 Market St., Reston, VA. All are invited to create chalk drawings on Market Street. The event is open to all. There will be prizes for professional artists, amateur artists, families and kids, in addition to the "Audience Choice Awards". The Festival is one of the area's most unique and fun events. Participants are invited to show off their creativity and realize chalk drawings on Market Street, in the heart of Reston Town Center. Visit: <http://www.publicartreston.org/get-involved/>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

**Community Yard Sale** 8:30 - noon Parking lot across from Reston Association 12000 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA 20191. 95 families will be participating. Vendor space is SOLD OUT. In case of rain, call 703-435-6577 the morning of the event, for a recorded, weather related message. Rain date 9/11. Cost: Free. [asheligh@reston.org](mailto:asheligh@reston.org) [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org)

**Native American lifestyles Festival** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Riverbend Park. at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls. This exploration of the history and lives of Virginia's First Families includes many hands-on activities. Admission is \$6 per person in advance or \$7 at the door. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/)

**Reston Station Movies.** 8:30 p.m. Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston. "Open Season Scared Silly." Visit [restonstation.com/event/movies-under-our-stars-open-season-scared-silly/](http://restonstation.com/event/movies-under-our-stars-open-season-scared-silly/) or call 703-230-1985.

SATURDAY/WEDNESDAY/SEPT 17-21

**Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.** Online registration open. Various venues around Northern Virginia. Events include badminton, volleyball, cycling, a 5k road race, and many more. \$12 per person. Visit [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

SUNDAY/SEPT. 11, 2016

**Reston Triathlon.** 7 a.m. Lake Audubon, Twin Branches Road, Reston. Swim, bike and run in the "Reston World Championships." Visit <http://www.restontriathlon.org/tri/> SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9



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# NEWS

FROM PAGE 5

## Police Practices Talk At Reston Church

Many Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCR) Members & Friends have asked for updates on the status of Fairfax County's Ad Hoc Commission recommendations on police practices. Answers can be found at a community meeting held at UUCR, 1625 Wiehle Ave, Reston, and led by County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins on Thursday, Sept. 8 from 7 - 9 p.m. In September, the County Board is scheduled to hold a critical vote on the issue of police oversight and Supervisor Hudgins is seeking community input. She will provide a review of recent developments. In addition, there will be a panel discussion on the issue of independent civilian review featuring: Shirley Ginwright - NAACP Fairfax County; Ri-

**WEEK IN HERNDON**

chard Perez - Fairfax County Police Department; Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner - Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Finally, there will be open discussion of the issues. This event is open to the public. All are invited.

## Toddler Signs at Herndon MOMS Club Meeting

The MOMS Club of Herndon will host a monthly meeting starting on Thursday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Trinity Presbyterian Church (651 Dranesville Rd, Herndon). All Herndon, VA (zip codes 20170 and 20171) at-home mothers and their children are encouraged to join the Club members as they learn about the benefits of baby/toddler signing with a demonstration class from Lisa Carlson with Toddler Signs.

Contact Stephanie Talberg, Membership VP at herndon\_moms\_info@yahoo.com.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 14

**League of Women Voters (LWV) - Reston** 7:30 - 9 p.m. Hunter Mill District Community Room B, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston 20190. The League is 96 years old and looking at ways that work today to make democracy work. High on this fall's agenda are ways and means to help voters become election ready. Join the discussion and find out how you can help. Free, open to the all, call 202-263-1311. Background papers at [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 16

**Reston Station Music.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston. Shag. British rock. 703-230-1985.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

**Reston Station Movies.** 8:30 p.m. Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston. "Goosebumps." 703-230-1985.

**Artists Reception** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Northern

Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, Building CE, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003.

**United Christian Parish of Reston Benefit Concert** 7:30 p.m. 11508 North Shore Drive Reston, VA 20190. A Benefit Concert featuring Dr. Maryory Serrano, violin, & Dr. Hsin-Yi Chen, piano. The program will include works representative of the entire season by Mozart, Coleridge-Taylor, Albeniz, and Franck, followed by a reception to meet the Artists and Conductor Search Finalists. Cost: \$20-30. [info@PACODc.org](mailto:info@PACODc.org) [www.PACODc.org](http://www.PACODc.org)

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# Hardly Where



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If there's one place where I don't belong, one place where I have limited knowledge, one place where I have minimal interest; it's a hardware store. Complicating those incontrovertible facts are the size and scope of the modern-day, box store-type monstrosity familiar even to me. I realize/have been told that size doesn't matter; apparently, that message hasn't translated to the hardware store. The height of the ceilings, the width of the aisles, the depth of the shelves, the numbers of registers, the miscellaneous service counters, the automated/sliding entry doors, the pick-up areas, the shopping carts, the "vested" staff, the interactive displays and the sheer variety of everything are totally overwhelming to me (I'm being kind to myself; now I'll be honest: intimidating to me).

The chance of me walking out with the item necessary to solve the problem I came in to address is almost impossible to calculate. However, if I were to try, I'd guess, somewhere between zero and none. And what chance I might have would likely require talking with "an associate" and being able to accurately describe the problem and the presumptive solution. That sounds simple and reasonable enough unless you're me. I likely wouldn't know the right answer if I heard it because either I had asked the wrong question or characterized the wrong set of circumstances which precipitated my visit in the first place. Moreover, knowing the eventual outcome will entail yours truly returning to the store and exchanging the item or spending hours at home on a repair that a "normal"/capable man/homeowner would spend minutes on, makes the entire process as unpleasant as any I've undertaken. Yesterday was just such a day.

I wouldn't say I'm still recovering from the effort, but neither am I basking in the glow of a job well done. Now I'm not going to humiliate myself and tell you what the attempted repair was; you can be sure it wasn't plumbing or electrical and certainly didn't involve a toilet or a trap of any kind. Nevertheless, when you're a person of extremely limited ability, instincts and experience as I am, any home repair in which you walk away uninjured and without any further adieu (follow-up service call from a professional or need for a new/replacement item because you broke the first one or made the problem worse by breaking something else) is a "Mt.-Rushmorian" success. Certainly not worthy of a mention in a magazine, but worthy I thought, of a column.

Now don't get any ideas that yesterday's success ('success' in this context is defined as 'not a disaster') emboldens me with any sort of self-confidence about future endeavors. Hardly. The fewer and farther between they remain, the happier I'll be. Yesterday's experience was nothing short of a miracle and simply moves me closer to the inevitable calamity I will cause when next I am faced with a similar set of homeowner-type circumstances.

For me, the devil is not in the details, it's in the "do-tells." The problem begins with the problem. It is then compounded by my inability to communicate the problem at the store, it is then compounded by my inability to understand the solution to the problem I am given at the store and finally, the problem is compounded by my inability to do at home what I was told at the store.

Believe it or not, I can accept my level of incompetence; I'm used to it. It's much harder on my wife, Dina, though; she has to live with me.

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

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## GORDON PARKS BACK TO FORT SCOTT

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Gordon Parks, Back to Fort Scott is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: Husband and Wife, Sunday Morning, Detroit, Michigan, 1950; Gordon Parks (American, 1912-2006), gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Herndon Police Department will conduct a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of body worn cameras for the agency.**

## Herndon Police to Conduct Body Worn Camera Pilot Program

During the months of September, October and November, 2016, the Herndon Police Department will conduct a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of body worn cameras. During the program, several officers will wear cameras on their uniforms to capture audio and visual footage of police interactions. Officers will be utilizing the cameras during calls for service, traffic stops, criminal investigations and other interactions with the public.

The department will be testing the Panasonic Arbitrator camera during the pilot program. The camera is a state-of-the-industry product the agency selected after an analysis of several body-worn cameras. The pilot program hopes to determine the

effectiveness of the cameras in areas such as: documenting events as they unfold, working out logistical issues with the equipment, fine tuning deployment procedures, and field testing the new agency policy for the equipment that ensures a respect for the privacy of the Herndon community. The cameras will be distributed during each of the department's three shifts, with a different shift piloting the cameras each month during the program.

The Herndon Police Department will seek the public's input and comment prior to a full-scale implementation of body worn cameras for all members of the department, which is anticipated to occur during the first quarter of 2017.

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](mailto:connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) by noon on Friday.

### ONGOING

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Also visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/).

**Fairfax County** needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Respite Care** volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels** urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

**Habitat Heroes Project.** The fourth Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. - noon. Join the Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests

from aggressive plants and restoring them to their natural state. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A. will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water. To volunteer and find more information, contact [habrock@reston.org](mailto:habrock@reston.org) or 703-435-7986.

**Cantonese-speaking Social Visitor** is needed in Falls Church to visit with an older adult female once or twice a month. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices).

**Shepherds Center McLean-Arlington-Falls Church Area Needs Volunteers.** Varying times, 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean. Volunteers who can provide transport to and from medical appointments, assistance during grocery and pharmacy trips, make friendly calls to home-bound individuals, help complete minor home repairs, and assist in yard work and chores are needed. 703-506-2199.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

**Tetra Review Committee Meeting** 12 p.m. at the Reston Association Conference Center 12001 Sunrise Valley Dr, Reston, VA 20191. The Tetra Review Committee, comprised of 3 RA Members and the 4 members of the RA Board Governance Committee, is responsible for: reviewing bids and more.

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 14

**Special Meeting of the RA Board** 6:30 p.m. at the Reston Association Conference Center 12001 Sunrise Valley Dr, Reston, VA 20191. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the Reston Association Board of Directors and members with an update and status regarding various Land Use/zoning.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left — the youngsters at Herndon Children’s Center will be more-than-welcomed to the new school year by Asst. Dir. Yvanna Olson Yearout and Director Cornelia Vasilcoiu. Several “in-service” days for the pair and the entire staff at HCC meant deep-cleaning, re-decorating, furniture and equipment shuffling, as well as curriculum preparation. HCC is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year of childcare and education.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ms. Betty (HCC Kitchen Manager Betty Daggitt) has been with Herndon Children’s Center from the start. “It’s my second home.” Many of the current enrollees and those who have long since “graduated” say that Ms. Betty made the HCC a second home for them, as well. Many come back to visit, and a few have returned to work at the Center.

# Building a Family for 25 Years

## Herndon Children’s Center celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Children’s Center (HCC), caring for and educating area kids from 3 months to pre-school, has been “building a family” for 25 years in the same location off of Spring St. in Herndon. “It really is like home – with a really big family!” says Jen Larco, who will be guiding a pre-school class at the Center this year. Larco knows what she’s talking about. She is a “graduate” of the Center herself, having attended the facility from infant to the age that she will now be teaching. Her colleague, Ashley Thorpe, who is a Pre-K assistant, also attended HCC. “I think I started in the toddler class,” she recalls.

In case Larco and Thorpe can’t remember all the details of their early experiences at HCC, there are quite a few staff members who can help them out, like teacher Roselle Escobar who has been there for 21 years, or “Ms. Betty,” the Kitchen Manager, who has been with HCC since the beginning. Turnover among the staff is so low in fact, that Asst. Director Yvanna Olson Yearout reports that more than 33 percent of them have been there more than 10 years.

“That’s an accomplishment already in our industry,” noted Center director Cornelia Vasilcoiu. Vasilcoiu is actually the newest member of the team, but she has many years



Jen Larco and Ashley Thorpe are making their in-service “clean up and prep days” as fun as when they were the children in those Herndon Children’s Center classrooms and play areas. Both young staffers “graduated” from HCC long before earning degrees and deciding that coming back to HCC was the way to go.



HCC teacher Roselle Escobar prepares for the the “new” school year during “in-service” days. With 21 years at HCC, Escobar says she and the Center “grew up together.” “I was just a kid when I started here. I went through college while I was here. I got my citizenship. My license. My family. And I love that so many kids come back just to visit, others send their own children here now, and others have come back to work here!”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

All in the family at Herndon Children’s Center. Mariana, almost 2 years old, explores her artistic talents. The youngster is the daughter of HCC’s Asst. Director Yvanna Olson Yearout, who says she will be soon adding to the facilities enrolment with a sibling for Mariana.

of experience with other facilities, both government-supported and privately owned chain care centers. “I took my time finding the right new place for me, and they took their time choosing me. There is a great atmosphere here, everybody working together for the safety, education and well-being of the children.”

Vasilcoiu and Olson Yearout attribute that atmosphere and the continuing success of HCC in part to the “great partnership between staff and parents.” The school is actually directed by a volunteer board of parents. “Of course,” said Olson Yearout, “it’s the experts in the field that develop the curriculum for the (National Association for Education of Young Children accredited) school, “but the board is involved in every aspect. They are the governing body.”

A higher-than-required adult-to-child ratio in each of the classes is also part of their guiding strategy. “We can really supervise them, as well as get to know each child, help them succeed and grow based on who they are,” stated Vasilcoiu. “We are interactive, employing a play-based and creative curriculum,” added Olson Yearout.

With almost 12,000 square feet of space, neatly divided and organized by age groups, and two large playgrounds - as well as what Olson Yearout describes as a “get the wiggles out Movement Room,” - HCC offers plenty of room to learn and grow. “Come visit us,” Vasilcoiu invites. “See the difference here, how they have built a community. I have never seen anything like it in all my years of child care.”



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