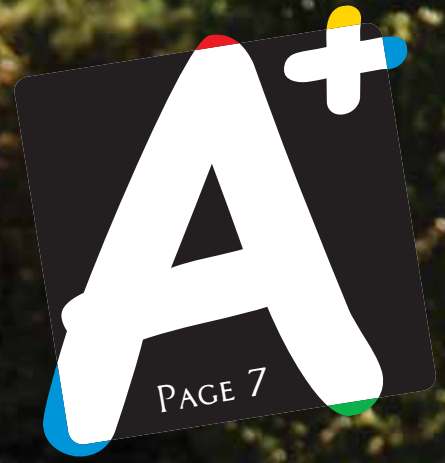




Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION



Sofia Pakhomkina, 11, of the town of Herndon drives the ball to score the final goal, resulting in a 4-4 draw between her team, the Herndon Lightning, and Takoma United on Saturday morning, Sept. 9, following the brand-new turf soccer field opening at the Herndon Community Center's Bready Park.

New Turf Field Opens At Bready Park

Food Truck
Amendment Voted Down

NEWS, PAGE 3

Sept. 11 Commemoration
Held at Herndon High

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NEWS, PAGE 6

NEWS

September Proclaimed Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month

The Herndon Town Council proclaimed September as Virginia Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month, which recognizes that bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians all have mutual rights and responsibilities when traveling on the roadways in the town. Members of the town's Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, Herndon Police Chief Maggie DeBoard and Sgt. Bobby Galpin joined the council and town staff to accept the proclamation.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC., FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND A SAVE PLAN PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 56-604 AND TO IMPLEMENT A 2018 SAVE PLAN INFRASTRUCTURE RELIABILITY AND REPLACEMENT ADJUSTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF ITS GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS CASE NO. PUR-2017-00095

On August 15, 2017, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("CVA" or "Company"), filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application for approval to amend Phase 2 of its SAVE Plan pursuant to the Steps to Advance Virginia's Energy Plan (SAVE) Act, Chapter 26 of Title 56 ("SAVE Act") of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), and for approval to implement a 2018 Infrastructure Reliability and Replacement Adjustment ("IRRA") ("Application").

In its Application, the Company requests approval to increase the total five-year (2016-2020) cap on authorized Phase 2 SAVE Plan expenditures from \$150 million to \$173.8 million, and to maintain the 5% tolerance band authorized in Case No. PUE 2015-00071 ("2015 SAVE Order"). According to the Company, its investments in the replacement of large-scale SAVE eligible projects limit the funds available for smaller projects, and the Company anticipates that it will exceed the current five-year cap of \$150 million if the Company maintains the current rate of SAVE investments. CVA is not proposing to modify the operational aspects of its current SAVE Plan or the authorized categories of SAVE eligible infrastructure, nor is the Company proposing any other substantive changes to the terms and conditions of the SAVE Plan.

Section 56-604 A of the SAVE Act allows CVA to recover SAVE eligible infrastructure costs (as defined in Code § 56-603) through a SAVE Rider, which is defined in the Company's tariff as the IRRA. Accordingly, CVA requests authority to implement a 2018 IRRA in accordance with Section 20 of its General Terms and Conditions, as contemplated in the Commission's November 28, 2011 Order Approving SAVE Plan and Rider in Case No. PUE-2011-00049, as modified by the July 3, 2013 Order Approving Amended SAVE Plan in Case No. PUE-2013-00015 and extended by the 2015 SAVE Order. The 2018 IRRA comprises a 2016 Infrastructure Replacement Reconciliation Rate ("IRRR") and a 2018 Infrastructure Replacement Current Rate ("IRCR") and is billed as a combined fixed charge each month. The 2016 IRRR is designed to true-up the IRCR in effect for calendar year 2016 to the actual SAVE costs experienced during that time period, and the 2018 IRCR is designed to recover projected costs associated with SAVE-eligible infrastructure replacements during calendar year 2018.

In its Application, the Company seeks approval of the following: (1) the Company's 2016 IRRR credit in the amount of \$1,263,556; (2) the Company's 2018 IRCR in the amount of \$5,740,130; and (3) the filing of rate sheets implementing the 2018 IRCR and 2016 IRRR. The 2018 IRCR and the 2016 IRRR result in an IRRA total net charge to customers of \$4,476,574 for 2018. The Company requests that the 2018 IRRA be effective with the first billing unit of January 2018 through the last billing unit of December 2018. The Company's 2018 IRRA proposed monthly rates by rate schedule are as follows: Residential Sales Service / Residential Transportation Service, \$1.14; Small General Service 1 / Small General Transportation Service 1, \$1.24; Small General Service 2 / Small General Transportation Service 2, \$3.30; Small General Service 3 / Small General Transportation Service 3, \$10.17; Large General Service 1 / Transportation Service 1, \$96.59; and Large General Service 2 / Transportation Service 2, \$463.14.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Application and supporting testimony and exhibits for the details of these proposals. While the total revenue that may be approved by the Commission is limited to the amount produced by the Company's proposed rates, TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may approve revenues and adopt rates, fees, charges, tariff revisions, and terms and conditions of service that differ from those appearing in the Application and supporting documents and may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application.

A copy of the Company's Application may be obtained at no charge by requesting a copy of the same from the Company's counsel, James S. Copenhaver, Esquire, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836. The Application and related documents also shall be available for review in the Commission's Document Control Center, Tyler Building, First Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219 between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

On or before October 6, 2017, interested persons may file written comments on CVA's Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so, on or before October 6, 2017, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2017-00095.

On or before October 6, 2017, interested persons desiring to participate as a respondent in this proceeding shall file a notice of participation as a respondent pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5 20-80 B of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. If not filed electronically on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be filed with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. The notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2017-00095, and copies thereof simultaneously shall be served on counsel for the Company.

On or before October 6, 2017, interested persons may request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company's Application by filing a request for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Requests for hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2017-00095 and shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2017-00095, and copies thereof simultaneously shall be served on counsel for the Company.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure may be viewed at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. A printed copy of the Rules of Practice and Procedure and an official copy of the Commission's Order in this proceeding may be obtained from Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P. O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

FAITH NOTES

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

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive, Reston, holds Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. during the summer. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Call 703-437-6530 or visit www.stannes-reston.org.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Call 703-941-7000 or visit www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of Herndon invites the community to join them for praise and worship followed by a stirring message from the Word of God on Sundays starting at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (with Sunday school at 7:30 and 9:30 a.m.). Visit www.mtpleasantbaptist.org or call 703-793-1196.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. Visit ShalomDC.org.

Hope Fellowship Church will temporarily be meeting at Hyatt Place, 21481 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling. Sunday worship services are Sundays at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., a Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and a weekly prayer conference call is Thursdays at 9 p.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. Call 703-599-3527 or visit www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org.

Nondenominational Christian businessmen meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and noon Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. during the summer. Nursery and childcare are provided starting at 8 a.m. until the end of the service. Call 703-437-5500 or visit www.trinityherndon.org.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3- to 4-year-old students. Call 703-938-2391 or visit www.epiphanypreschool.com.

Washington Plaza Baptist Church will hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church needs knitters the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Prayer Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. Email shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

Food Truck Amendment Voted Down by Town Council

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

During a public hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 12, the Herndon Town Council unanimously voted against consideration of an amendment to the Town of Herndon Zoning Ordinance that would have allowed food trucks to operate for an unlimited amount of time.

Food trucks are currently allowed in the town, but hours are limited. Food trucks cannot be operated on any street within the town; they can only park on property with permission from the tenant, owner or operator of the property. Food trucks are also limited to no more than 21 hours of operation a week, the seven-day period extending from Sunday morning through the following Saturday.

The amendment would have allowed food trucks to operate on private property within allowed zoning districts without time limitations.

"I fully expected it [to be voted down]," said Andrew Kelley, co-founder of the Aslin Brewery Company. "Food trucks drive economic development. They actually drive foot traffic ... because there are more options. Being able to convey that to an older generation has been tough. That's what we're trying to do."

There were several older residents who attended and spoke against the amendment. The councilmembers agreed with them.

"I think we have worked so hard to really revamp the downtown and make it this wonderful place that people want to come that I think this is going backwards," Councilmember Sheila Olem said during the hearing. "If someone wanted to put a trailer in my neighborhood, I would be having a heart attack. To me that's kind of what a food truck would do. This is our historic downtown."

KELLEY AND HIS COMPANY were the ones to petition the town to relax its rules on food trucks. The brewery is located in the Sunset Business Park and will open a second location downtown.

Kelley and his colleagues thought a permanent food truck could be a good solution to provide its downtown customers with more options until it fully builds out the space. They also thought it could be a solution to keep business going during anticipated construction for the redevelopment of downtown.

"We would have to have a larger site plan to add a kitchen at this point, so in the interest of time and after our tasting room has been shut down, we thought a food truck would be a good introduction to our permanent option, while we further develop the site in downtown," he said.

Town staff recommended a down vote for the amendment because they did not approve of the language and the implications it could have: Allowing food trucks to be-



Andrew Kelley, co-founder of the Aslin Brewery Company, testified in favor of allowing his company to operate a food truck on their property without time limits.

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



The Herndon Town Council proclaimed Sept. 15 as POW/MIA Recognition Day, which honors the commitment and sacrifices made by America's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action and their families. Herndon/Reston American Legion Post 184 Commander David Womack (center) joined the council and town staff to accept the proclamation.



The Herndon Town Council proclaimed Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month, which recognizes that Americans of Hispanic and Latino heritage have a positive influence on the town's community. Nury Mena, co-chairman of the Hispanic Business Council of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce (center), and Valerie Kaiser, partner of Elden Street Financial and executive board member of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce (far right), joined the council and town staff to accept the proclamation.

"If someone wanted to put a trailer in my neighborhood, I would be having a heart attack."

— Councilmember Sheila Olem

come permanent fixtures.

"We're happy to work with the applicant to find out if maybe there is some other type of business model that would work for them; and if that includes maybe a more minor change to the food truck ordinance, staff might be able to support that and we would bring that back to you as an initiating resolution," Lisa Gilleran, director of community development for the town, said during the hearing. "But right now, we think this is way too broad."

"We as the town came down to [the food truck ordinance] as looking at it as a temporary use, and that's one of the reasons why we have the limitation in the number of hours for any given food truck is that we want it to definitely be temporary and accessory to the primary use of the property," Gilleran added.

Though the amendment failed to move along in the process for approval, the council was adamant to reassure Kelley, who was present for the vote, that they want staff to work with him so the brewery could thrive in downtown.

"I know that the applicant that has brought this forward is an owner of a wildly popular business in Herndon that is moving to downtown who has grand plans for expansion; and if this is denied, I do trust that the staff will work with him and try to find a solution that helps get them over the hump and help them meet their goals, but while also meeting the goals of the downtown," Mayor Lisa Merkel said during the hearing prior to the vote.

"I think I can safely say the council is excited about this particular new project in downtown and we want to do what we can to help make a suitable solution so that they can meet their goals and we can have an exciting brewery in downtown Herndon," she added.

FOOD TRUCKS are permitted to sell food on streets in Fairfax County, but only on selected streets that are regulated by the Fairfax County Health Department. They may also vend in selected county parks after obtaining a Mobile Food Vendor Permit from the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Also during the meeting, the council:

- ❖ proclaimed September as Virginia Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month in the town;

- ❖ proclaimed Sept. 15-Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in the town; and

- ❖ proclaimed Sept. 15 as POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Voting Every Year, But Always Critical

League of Women Voters provides forums to learn about the candidates.

Every year is Election Year in Virginia, and each year the election matters. This year, all the members of the Virginia House of Delegates are up for re-election, along with statewide races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

So many things are at stake. The deadline to register to vote in the General Election on Nov. 7, or update an existing registration, is Monday, Oct. 16.

Of the 30 incumbents in the Virginia House of Delegates who are running unopposed, 11 are in Northern Virginia: Mark Keam (D-35); Ken Plum (D-36); David Bulova (D-37); Vivian Watts (D-39); Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41); Mark Sickles (D-43); Paul Krizek (D-44); Mark Levine (D-45); Charniele Herring (D-46); Patrick Hope (D-47); and Rip Sullivan (D-48).

Marcus Simon (D-53) faces no Republican challenger, but will face Mike Casey, an Independent.

In Northern Virginia, there is only one open seat, the 42nd, vacated by Dave Albo (R) who says he can't afford to continue dedicate so much time to the legislature at the expense of his law practice. Kathy Tran (D) faces Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R).

Other contested races: Kathleen Murphy (D-34) faces Cheryl Buford (R). Kaye Kory (D-38)

faces Paul Haring (R). Tim Hugo (R-40) faces Donte Turner (D). Alfonso Lopez (D-49) faces Adam Roosevelt (R). Jim LeMunyon (R-67) faces Karrie Delaney (D). Jennifer Boysko (D-86) faces Linda Schulz (R). The local Connection newspaper to each of these races has covered or will write about each contested race; you can find the stories on our website.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold both in-person and televised forums for the public to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates.

❖ Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Invited candidates: Mark L. Keam (D), David L. Bulova (D), Eileen Filler-Corn (D), Kathy K.L. Tran (D), Lolita I. Mancheno-Smoak (R), Marcus B. Simon (D), and Mike S. Casey (I).

❖ Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall: 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Invited candidates: L. Kaye Kory (D), Paul B. Haring (R), Vivian E. Watts (D), Mark D. Sickles (D), Paul E. Krizek (D), Mark H. Levine (D), Alfonso H. Lopez (D), and Adam Roosevelt (R).

❖ Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Invited candidates: Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), David L. Bulova (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R),

Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

The remaining televised forum at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to theinsidescooptv@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on:

❖ Monday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: Kathleen J. Murphy (D), Cheryl A. Buford (R), Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), R.C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

Killing the Poor to Pay Millionaires, Current Attempt

Because the current effort in the Senate to vote on "repeal and replace" for the Affordable Care Act is, if anything, worse than the previous attempts in substance, I hope that you will read my previous editorial from June. <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jun/27/opinion-editorial-killing-poor-pay-millionaires/>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Criticism Off-Base

To the Editor:

Michael Pope's recent article in which he insinuated that Virginia Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86) might be ineffective because she was fighting the system was way off-base.

In her first term as a state delegate Boysko has chief-patroned or co-patroned many bills that successfully passed and became law, some in collaboration with her Republican colleagues. Those bills, to name a few, include increasing access of mental health programs for volunteer fire and rescue personnel, prohibiting I-66 HOV lanes to change from HOV 2 to HOV 3, improving the make-up of the state Forensic Science Board, establishing a tax credit for food crops grown for donating to non-profit food banks, authorizing bonds to be issued to construct veterans care centers, increasing the penalty for someone to possess a firearm who is under a permanent protective order for family abuse, etc.

I say "Bravo!" to Del. Boysko for being brave enough to share with the public that Republican committee leaders kill bills without hearings, with minutes notice to patrons, or with unrecorded voice votes. And yes, a recent opioid-related bill that Boysko researched and chief-patroned was killed and then reintroduced by a Republican so that he could get credit for it, not her. But Boysko believes that having these important bills pass is more important than whose name is attached to it.

These are examples of some of the political shenanigans that occur in Richmond. Mr. Pope is concerned about Boysko violating unwritten rules by bringing these antics to light? The people of the 86th district did not elect Boysko to go to Richmond so that the Republican leaders could patronizingly pat her on the head as if to say, "Wait your turn, young lady."

Delegate Boysko is an important part of the Northern Virginia Delegation and represents the people of the 86th with heart and honor.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

Fairfax County Should Welcome Short-term Rentals

To the Editor:

At a public hearing on Sept. 5 in Reston, Fairfax County residents voiced their concerns and requests regarding the county's efforts to draft regulations governing short-term rentals (STRs). Through various home-sharing platforms (e.g., Airbnb and Vacation Rental by Owner), homeowners can offer spare couches, rooms, and even entire homes or apartments to visitors coming to the area as a way to make extra income.

Residents' opinions, fears, and experiences with and about STRs ranged across the spectrum. Opposers of STRs cited all the potential bad things that STRs can bring to a neighborhood. We heard stories about wild parties, screeching cars in the middle of the night, and a lost sense of community. Supporters of STRs told stories about how they are able to pay

their mortgage thanks to the ability to rent spare rooms. Families suffering from job loss and single parents can stay in their homes because of STRs, which, despite being currently illegal in Fairfax County, they do anyway.

Many of those at the hearing who spoke against STRs were older, 60s+, while those in favor were largely younger than 60s. Could the range of opinion be generational? (Raise your hand if you like change.) According to the county representatives, results from a survey showed some opposed at all costs, some in favor with no regulation, and many somewhere in between. The reality is, those on either extreme of the opinion spectrum will not get their way. Regardless how you feel about it, the sharing economy is here to stay, and the county will regulate it.

Before moving to the Town of Herndon, my husband and I lived in an unincorporated section of the county. Thirty percent of the 264 townhomes in our community were rentals. Many times over the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

13 years we lived there, I called the police with noise complaints. I also served on the HOA, which meant having to listen to plenty of the typical complaints about renters (noisy, hoggers of parking spaces, trashers of property) as well as having to enforce HOA rules that renters never seemed to get right. Most of their ignorance could be pinned to their landlords who failed to inform their tenants about the rules. These same concerns were raised by the STR opposers. Their complaints are valid except that their experiences were with long-term renters, not STRs.

It would be easy to dump all renters into the same boat and send them down Bad Creek; however, that would be unfair. Not all renters engage in annoying or destructive behaviors, yet some homeowners surely do. So to oppose STRs simply because some renters are undesirable doesn't hold water. At the same time, who wants to live in a neighborhood flooded with STRs where you never know who your neighbor is going to be from week to week?

We moved to Herndon a couple of years ago, buying a house with two spare rooms and a spare bathroom. We don't need that space, yet it would be a shame to let it go unused. For us, Airbnb is an opportunity to earn extra income while also getting to meet people from all over the world.

We're an international household and travelers ourselves, so Airbnb has been a perfect fit as hosts and guests. Several guests have told us that without the affordability of Airbnb, they wouldn't have been able to come here for events such as weddings, funerals, and symposiums, or to visit the area. All of our guests seek a more personable local experience, something a hotel could never offer. Many of our guests have told us they wouldn't — or couldn't — have come to Herndon if they had to pay for a hotel.

As hosts, we are ambassadors for Herndon and the surrounding area. We guide guests toward local restaurants, shops, and sites of interest. Our guests spend money here. The money we earn goes right back into our home. The extra income has helped us pay for home improvements, such as new windows, a new roof, and enhanced landscaping. All these things benefit our neighborhood by helping to increase property values. Our neighbors' right to the safe and peaceful enjoyment of their property is paramount. If any of our guests ever violated that right, we'd ask them to leave immediately. Airbnb backs us up on this. So far, our guests have been fantastic; several are repeat visitors. Most of our neighbors don't even know we're hosts. In other words, we are exactly the type of STR entrepreneurs Fairfax County should support. We are willing to be regulated in order that STRs do not become a problem for others in the area. Yes, there are rogue players out there, and they should be stopped for a lot of reasons. We're willing to pay a modest and fair fee to support regulation.

Because we live in the Town of Herndon, we are currently operating legally (we're not subjected to the County's prohibition on STRs). But Herndon is drafting regula-

tions and likely watching how the county handles this.

So we'd like the County and Town to consider the benefits that people like us bring to the community and region. STRs are not all alike, which means a one-size-fits-all law won't suffice. It will take careful crafting to ensure protection of our communities against those who have no interests here other than to make as much money as possible while allowing entrepreneurs to operate responsibly and respectfully so that STRs enhance our communities.

Sarah Snyder
Herndon

Supporting Gillespie for Governor

To the Editor:

The first job of our governor is to keep us safe and secure. 2017 Republican gubernatorial nominee Ed Gillespie understands the critical nature of this responsibility and is prepared to act on it.

Over the last couple of months, Gillespie has participated in multiple ride-alongs with local law enforcement and has seen firsthand the criminal activity occurring in our state. He knows that issues related to gangs like MS-13 have gone unaddressed for far too long. I know he will be the leader that steps up and does something about it.

Gillespie recently put forward a plan to combat gangs, reduce crime, and provide support for the brave men and women who selflessly serve their communities to make our Commonwealth safer. Boosting compensation for law enforcement, reinstating Project Exile, securing funding for the Northern Virginia Regional Task force and banning sanctuary cities will be just some of the major priorities of the Gillespie administration.

Gillespie's commitment to keeping us safe extends beyond just the state and local levels, he also is a major supporter of our military. He understands that Virginia will benefit economically from President Trump's initiative to build up our military and wants to make sure that Virginia plays a leading role. Long gone will be the days when President Obama's Sequestration stunted our state's economy. With Gillespie in the governor's office, we will build more ships and submarines in Newport News, dredge our channel and bolster our cyber security presence. Under his leadership, we will become the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

Gillespie's policies will provide important wins for our safety and our economic future. I'll be proud to cast my vote for him in November, and I hope that you will join me.

Genaro Pedroarias
Great Falls

WRITE

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and valid phone number.

Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Email herndon@connectionnewspapers.com



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703-860-4515
12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon, VA 20171



Tall Oaks Assisted Living Has Teamed with TAD Relocation and Transitional Transport for a RESTON Delivery to Hurricane Irma Victims

Dear Friends,

We have all seen the pictures of the devastation that Hurricane Irma has caused in Florida. We all want to help, and now there is an opportunity in Reston to do just that!

A special collection day of much needed supplies will be held **Friday, September 22, from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM in the parking lot of Tall Oaks Assisted Living in Reston.** Tall Oaks is located at 12052 North Shore Drive, just off Wehle Avenue, close to the Wehle Avenue Metro Station. There is easy access with plenty of free parking.

Trucks from TAD Relocation and Transitional Transport will be on site to take all donated items directly to those in need in Florida where they will be distributed by the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and Life for Animals.

The most requested items are:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Toiletries | First Aid Items | Bed Pillows and Blankets | Gloves |
| Diapers | Cleaning Supplies | Utility Knives and Leather Work | Hand Sanitizers |
| NEW Underwear and Socks | Canned Goods | | New or Gently Used Clothing |
| | Box Fans | | |

As many seniors in Florida are not able to return to their homes, Tall Oaks has reduced by \$1,000.00 the first month's rent for any victims of Hurricanes Irma or Harvey who sign a new lease, monies that can go towards moving expenses or to the purchase of new personal items and furniture.

For more information, please call Chuck Thornton, Director of Community Relations for Tall Oaks Assisted Living at 703-834-9800.

Now is the time to collect at your office, church, home, or school. We appreciate your help, and we know the people in Florida will also!

Sincerely,

Eileen Anatra
Executive Director
Tall Oaks Assisted Living, managed by
Coordinated Services Management, Inc.



Eileen Spata
Regional Director
TAD Relocation



Siamak Masoudi
Principal
Transitional Transport
Moving and Storage





PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

From left to right: Cindy Roeder, director of the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department; John Irish, chief program and project management for the Herndon Department of Public Works; Robert Walker, chair of the Herndon Architectural Review Board; Bill Ashton, Herndon Town Manager; Mark Martino, athletic services branch manager for the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services; Bill McKenna, Herndon councilmember; Lisa Merkel, mayor of Herndon; Jennifer Baker, Herndon vice mayor and councilmember; Signe Friedrichs, Herndon councilmember; Jeff Davidson, Herndon councilmember; John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor; Lance Kilby, director of engineering for Burgess & Niple, an engineering and architectural firm; Jody Rameta, club administrator for Herndon Youth Soccer; Dave Bekenstein, president of Herndon Youth Soccer; and Sally Burns, vice president and director of travel for Herndon Youth Soccer.

New Turf Field Celebrated

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

A ribbon cutting commemorated the brand-new turf soccer field at the Herndon Community Center's Bready Park on Saturday morning, Sept. 9.

Soccer players began practicing on the field in August, and the field was bustling with multiple teams playing games on sections of the field while officials assembled to cut the ribbon.

"This project has been a really long-time coming ... Herndon Town Councils long before we arrived had the foresight to put this on the plan and it's been on the books since ... 2004 — a long time ago — and was finally funded this past year," Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel said during the ribbon cutting as soccer players battled behind her and parents cheered and yelled for their teams around her.

The field replacement from natural grass to turf was listed on the town's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for more than 10 years and was bumped year-after-year until money was secured to finance the project, which cost just over \$1 million.

The town of Herndon paid \$566,000 from its general fund; Fairfax County provided a \$125,000 grant; and Herndon Youth Soccer will pay \$400,000 — \$200,000 right away and another \$200,000 on a payment plan to the town.

"We really cannot thank Herndon Soccer enough because we would not have been able to do this without your generous contribution," Merkel said.

Herndon Youth Soccer, which has soccer teams for boys and girls under-5 to 19 years old, will be the primary user of the field. The club also uses the fields at Herndon High School, which it also funded, according to the club's president, Dave Bekenstein.

"The field used to be unusable and the teams have been excited to have it," Bekenstein said of the new turf field. "It can be used, even in bad weather."



Herndon Youth Soccer President Dave Bekenstein addressed the crowd during the ribbon cutting for the new field, but was unaware that the infill system used crumb rubber.

The field has been booked ever since it opened, according to Cindy Roeder, director of the town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department.

"The teams were super excited," Roeder said. "Our teams have been waiting to play here at home."



PHOTOS BY LISA HERNDON/HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Honor Guard of Cadets raises a ceremonial National Ensign at Herndon's main flag pole.

Sept. 11 Commemoration Held at Herndon High School

Herndon High School Navy JROTC cadets commemorated the 9/11 anniversary, by holding a special ceremony in the front of Herndon High School on the morning of Sept. 11, 2017. The Herndon Police and Fire Departments and Fairfax County Police Departments were represented by First Responders.

Parents and administrators

looked on as an Honor Guard of Cadets raised a ceremonial National Ensign at Herndon's main flag pole. Herndon's Principal, Dr. Liz Noto provided remarks of remembrance and honor for those countrymen and women who were lost.

Herndon High School Band provided two buglers who played Taps at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Herndon High School Band provided two buglers who played Taps at the conclusion of the ceremony.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Collin Hanley, of Reston, traveled to Pine Ridge, South Dakota this summer as part of the largest group of student travelers in Belmont University (Nashville, Tenn.) history.

Jenna Hirshfeld, of Reston, has earned a spot on the Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute women's soccer roster.

New Year, New Teacher

How to identify effective teachers.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As a new school year got underway this month, Sebla Tobin, a family therapist in Rockville, Md., noticed an uptick in the number of her patients who are parents, expressing concern about the teachers their children had been assigned.

"So many parents are leery of new teachers or teachers who are young," she said. "I encourage them to give the teacher a chance before passing judgment and marching into the principal's office to ask for a different teacher. Just because a teacher graduated from college last spring doesn't mean that they won't be effective. And a teacher who's been in the classroom for 20 years may be jaded and grumpy."

Teacher effectiveness is a concern among parents as the school year gets underway, says Tobin, and she points to research which shows how teachers can affect student achievement. A 2011 study from Harvard and Columbia universities showed a link between effective teachers and stu-

dents who were more likely to attend college, have lower teenage pregnancy rates and other positive outcomes. So what qualities constitute an effective teacher?

Effective teachers are knowledgeable of the subjects they are teaching, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. professor of Childhood Studies at George Mason University. "Effective teachers are able to transfer that knowledge to students who have different comprehension levels," she said.

Creating a classroom environment that is safe for student learning is also important, adds Garner. "Overall, effective teachers work hard to create a positive classroom climate which is characterized by providing opportunities for student input in decision making and support for individual differences," she said.

Setting high expectations for all students, but realizing that students have a variety of abilities, is an important factor, believes Jessica Lewis, Ed.D., professor of education at Marymount University. "For some students getting a C is like a medal of



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A positive classroom helps welcome students back to school is an important factor in student learning, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. of George Mason University.

honor and that's OK," said Lewis. "Students want to do well and be pushed, but pushed with support. Knowing that a teacher un-

derstands the student and their abilities sends a positive message that the teacher is on their side when it comes to learning."

A teacher who is able to demonstrate genuine concern for students is necessary to create an effective learning environment, adds Lewis. "Parents often say 'I want a teacher who knows their content,' but I always go back to 'does the teacher care?' If a teacher doesn't care, then they're not going to be effective. An effective teacher motivates students to want to learn."

An ability to form a strong relationship with students is another characteristic that Lewis believes is important. "The more rapidly the teachers can get to know the individual students and things they enjoy like their hobbies, the sports they like, the sooner that teacher can see that students are real little people behind those names," she said. "As a teacher you have to put the heart first and policy second. What factors are going on at home that can throw the student for a loop. If you have a caring adult to say, 'Hey do you want to talk about it?' that can make a big difference."

An effective teacher accepts students for and where they are, adds Lewis. "Students can learn more from a teacher when the teacher shows that they care," she said.

"An effective teacher motivates students to want to learn."

— Jessica Lewis, Ed.D.,
Marymount University

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ENTERTAINMENT

Musical Group Quetzal

PHOTO COURTESY
OF RESTON
COMMUNITY CENTER



Music of Hope and Inspiration

Quetzal to perform at Reston's CenterStage.

Where & When

Reston Community Center/CenterStage presents Quetzal at the Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performance: Sunday, Oct. 1 at 3 p.m. Tickets \$20-\$30. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Expect to hear thoughtful and creative songs about a love for humanity, justice and environmental consciousness," said Quetzal Flores about the upcoming performance of the musical group Quetzal at Reston's CenterStage. The group aims to provide "a regenerative sense of hope and inspiration."

Flores went on to say that the "Quetzal musical style is a blend of Mexican and American folk. We are particularly influenced by Black music from both cultures."

For those not familiar with Quetzal, it is a bilingual (Spanish-English) musical group that began in East Los Angeles, Calif. Quetzal is known for creative tunes that aim to have listeners want to dance and think about community activism for positive social change.

"Art and culture in general, stimulates and incites creative and critical thought," said Flores. "Our intention is never to bombard folks with messages, but to present lived realities in hopes that we can build points of connection."

Connecting music directly to stir social activism, Flores noted that "It's an endless cycle of reciprocity. The more we mirror real life and imaginary experiences the more we feel nods of validation that in turn gives us permission to continue."

As an example of Quetzal lyrics, Flores spoke of a recently released song titled "The Eternal Getdown." The song asks "beyond the picket, the boycott and the trend that will soon be abated. That all of these deaths are interrelated. Ferguson, Emmitt, Guerrero, and Brown. How do we initiate our people into the Eternal Getdown?"

Flores went on to note, "In other words how do we get to the point where our humanity can thrive in the face of brutality? How do we look to what exists in our communities already to build a perpetual state of 'Getting Down' or 'Being Down?'"

For Flores she would like CenterStage audiences to be curious about the music, message and social activism of Quetzal.

"I chose Quetzal to open the 2017-2018 Professional Touring Artists Series because they create a great balance between art and activism," said Paul Douglas Mischewicz, Arts & Events Director, Reston Community Center. "Their music is delightfully spirited and when you listen carefully to their lyrics, they bring up immigration issues that affect all of us."

The Quetzal performance is part of the Reston Community Center's celebration of Hispanic American Heritage Month. The month pays tribute to Hispanic Americans who have influenced and enriched the nation and society.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Networking Mixer at Hidden Creek Country Club

Savvy Business Network teams up with Women on Course to host a Networking Mixer on Sunday, Oct. 1, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. Play the 19th hole and enjoy the benefits of the golf lifestyle without swinging a club. Join the mixer to network with like-minded women including brunch,

a fashion show and shopping finds from a variety of lifestyle vendors. This event welcomes the first 50 people who RSVP. Payment is required in advance to confirm reservation. Vendor opportunities available. Contact Meryl at info@savvybusinessnetwork.com or Yes Kirkman at YesKirkman@gmail.com to reserve space.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Reston Farm Market, Saturdays, through Dec. 9, 8 a.m. - Noon, Lake Anne Village Center, 11401 North Shore Drive, SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program. (CLOSED for Multicultural Festival Sept. 23)

Herndon Farm Market, Thursdays through Nov. 9, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., by the Red Caboose. SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program.

Jazz in the City Exhibit. Various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Kristine Keller and Robert Gilbert paint with an interest in New York. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 20

"Mean to Be." 7 p.m. in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center Lake Anne. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum presents "Meant to Be: How Reston Almost Wasn't" with Timothy Beatley. Free. Seating is limited, reservations are welcome. Contact 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21

Food for Kids Community Packing Event. 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 6 at at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Email LynnB517@verizon.net or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Lunch Bunch Thursdays. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. BYO lunch and see different entertainment in the Pavilion at Fountain Square each week. Rain or shine. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Fashion Tip Thursdays. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. This week, Victorian collars and accents. Call 571-526-4185 or visit restontowncenter.scoutandmollys.com.

Third Thursdays Art Crawl. 6 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. ArtSpace exhibits art throughout Herndon. Free. Go to www.artspaceherndon.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 22

Storm Victim Donations. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Tall Oaks Assisted Living, 12052 North Shore Drive. A special collection day for much needed supplies. Call 703-834-9800.

Lullabye a Lamb. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Come to Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Farm Park to see the bedtime routine for the park's farm animals. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour of the park and see how animals on a farm settle down for the night. \$8. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza. A celebration of the diversity and community spirit that is found in Reston, featuring music, entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world. Everyone is encouraged to dress in attire from their own cultural roots. All ages. Free. Rain or shine. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

Lullabye a Lamb. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Come to Kidwell Farm at



Frying Pan Farm Park to see the bedtime routine for the park's farm animals. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour of the park and see how animals on a farm settle down for the night. \$8. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

Walk to End Alzheimer's. 1:30-5 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Join in and unite in a movement with the Alzheimer's Association Register at 703-359-4440 or samarthey@alz.org alz.org/walk.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. at Bow Tie Cinemas in Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Reston Association presents the feature film, "The Circle." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information at Ashleigh@reston.org, 703-435-6530, or reston.org.

Used Books and Media Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Friends night, sale runs through Sept. 27. Prices start at \$.50. Visit restonlibraryfriends.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

Lunch Bunch Thursdays. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. BYO lunch and see different entertainment in the Pavilion at Fountain Square each week. Rain or shine. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Fashion Tip Thursdays. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. This week, Formal Velvet. Call 571-526-4185 or visit restontowncenter.scoutandmollys.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

Quetzel in Concert. 3 p.m. at CenterStage. Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston. East Side musicians committed to continuing the legacy of 70-plus years of Chicano Rock. \$20 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. Call 877-775-3462.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Mucca Pazza in Concert. 3 p.m. at CenterStage. Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston. Mucca Pazza has appeared on Late

Art Show

ValeArts Fall Art Show, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. The nine artists of ValeArts will present "Transformations," an exhibit of more than 150 works of local art. Call 703-860-1888.

Night with Conan O'Brien and NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts. \$20 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. Call 877-775-3462.

SUNDAY/OCT. 8

Meet the Artists Reception. 2-4 p.m. at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. "Stolen Moments" exhibit by the League of Reston Artists' runs from Oct. 2-30. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Adult Coloring Session. 7 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. "Color Me Happy," release the inner artist. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

DEADLINE OCT. 13

Herndon Good Neighbor. Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2017 award for a neighbor that's gone above and beyond. Call 703/435-6800 X2084 or e-mail information@herndon-va.gov.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

16th Annual Reston Home Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring six private homes in throughout Reston. Tickets: before Oct. 7, \$25; Oct. 7-14 and online \$30. Group discounts. Tickets available at Reston Museum, Appalachian Spring. GRACE, Chesapeake Chocolates and The Wine Cabinet at North Point. Call 703-709-7700 or visit restonmuseum.org.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local author and paranormal investigator Rob Gutro will present his "Double Murder Ghost Investigation" and talk about his book, "Lessons Learned From the Dead." Adults, teens. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

MONDAY/OCT. 16

Photography Exhibit. 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts of all skill levels to attend meetings on the third Monday of the month. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.



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SPORTS

Clarence John Wells-Martin from Herndon competes in the softball hit event in the 70-74 age group.

Skills Competition

Senior Olympics' Football and Frisbee Throw and Softball Hit and Throw events were held at Wakefield District Park in Annandale on Wednesday, Sept. 13.



PHOTOS BY
TOM MANNING
THE CONNECTION

Thomas Sullivan from Oakton prepares to throw the shot in the 70-74 age group.



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BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 22

Storm Victim Donations. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Tall Oaks Assisted Living, 12052 North Shore Drive. A special collection day for much needed supplies. Call 703-834-9800 for more.

IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold four in-person forums and three televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org.

In-person forums:

- ❖ **Thursday, Sept. 28** at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax.
- ❖ **Wednesday, Oct. 25** at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to theinsidescoopvtv@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on: **Monday, Sept. 11** at 8 p.m.; **Monday, Sept. 18** at 8 p.m.; and **Monday, Oct. 2** at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Reston Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. at 1900 Campus Commons Drive (corner of Sunrise Valley Drive and Wiehle Avenue). 85 families will be selling a variety of items for a new home or a college dorm. Call 703-435-6577 for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 3

Community Emergency Response Team Training. There are two sessions each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 p.m.-10:30 p.m., at 432 Van Buren Street in Herndon. Classes run until October 26. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/cert.htm form more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

Finances Lecture. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Financial advisor, Monica Mason, will present "Rock Your Runway: Financial Fitness For Women" for women on how to get and stay financially fit. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

MONDAY/NOV. 6

Capital Area Franchise Fair. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Provides help and education for entrepreneurs interested in exploring franchise ownership options that best fit their financial, professional and personal goals. \$35 (\$49 at the door). Visit www.capitalfranchiseshow.com

ONGOING

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

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Talking the Walk



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Our long, local, overnight nightmare is almost over. By the date this column publishes: Sept. 20, 2017, I will, for the first time in nearly nine weeks, not had to have snaked down in the dark, our "turny-twisty" and narrow 150-year-old staircase to walk from the upstairs master bedroom to the downstairs and only usable commode. Though the renovation of this upstairs bathroom is not entirely complete nor ready for primetime (it is mostly usable as the water is now running and flushing), the demolition/renovation process apparently must go on/adhere to a schedule so, on Tuesday, Sept. 19 the downstairs bathroom, with all its fully functioning amenities will come under the sledge hammer – among other tools, and provide no further use until on or about Oct. 24.

This heretofore ("Good Will Hunting") logistical challenge has not presented too many difficulties for my wife, Dina. But given that I'm a male of a certain age, quite the opposite has been true for me. Once or twice and occasionally even more per overnight depending upon how late and how much I've had to eat or drink before bedtime, I'll need to visit the bathroom to attend to some very personal business. To be clear, the 'challenge' to which I refer is getting to the bathroom, not starting and/or finishing what I intended once I get there.

Moreover, when the task at hand has been completed, of course I need to retrace my steps – usually in the dark, and walk back upstairs. Though not nearly as difficult as walking downstairs; nevertheless, at the time I am going down and back up, in the middle of the night, my vision might not so readily acclimate and my balance is, let's just say: inconsistent, especially when trying to avoid the miscellaneous bathroom-remodeling boxes staged in the living room on the very route I must travel.

Needless to say, having this nightly nonsense come to an end is most definitely a column worth writing. Not necessarily to self-indulge anymore than usual but more so to amuse you regular readers and possibly even prepare you for your own in-home renovation. And considering that this renovation is our first – and we have minimal experience with these matters, I thought it useful to write it forward and perhaps share a less-than-obvious impact of taking the one-and-only-on-the-same-floor bathroom out of service. Sinks, mirrors and shower/tub issues notwithstanding, all of which can be withstood and endured with the reorientation to the downstairs bathroom, the commode issue, considering its unpredictability, naturally trumps all other real or imagined difficulties.

Though the upstairs bathroom is incomplete and lacking multiple finishing elements, its transformation so far is incredible – to our eyes. I'll spare you any details because that really would be self-indulgent and not at all the point of this column. But the two months or so it will have taken for the upstairs bathroom to become operational again and the nightly effect it's had on me appears to have been worth the wait.

As concerns the downstairs bathroom, we are now ready, willing and able to integrate its destruction into our routine. Given that it is more of a powder room than a master-type bathroom – though it will include a shower-only enclosure, no longer will it be my twice-nightly destination. In addition, I am looking forward to its transformation because the interim process will not prevent me from going anywhere I regularly go nor inconveniencing my wife, Dina, when she readies for work in the morning.

Monitoring its progress will be more of a curiosity than a calamity, since, in my mind, there will be no sense of urgency about the pace of this project as there had been with the upstairs bathroom because my bathroom access will not be affected in the least. And in the most, I am extraordinarily grateful – and relieved.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEELA AYYAR

Leela Ayyar is a senior at Oakton High School. Her chemistry teacher Susan Bingham, Science Department Chair wrote as a reference: “Leela has taken her capstone project to a higher level and found a way to share her passion for the STEM fields with children.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEELA AYYAR

Recently, Leela Ayyar conducted focus groups at FCPS STEM Camp and Tech Adventure Camp to support her manuscript for “Elara, STEM Girl.” Ayyar’s goal was to gain a multiplicity of views and experiences from the FCPS students regarding ingrained biases and challenges young girls face in the STEM fields.

Oakton High Senior Authors ‘Elara, STEM Girl’

Kickstarter campaign launched to support publication expenses for Leela Ayyar’s capstone project.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Leela Ayyar is a 17-year-old student at Oakton High School with a strong passion for science, technology, engineering, and math, otherwise known as STEM. Ayyar is also the author of “Elara, STEM Girl,” her unpublished book for 4-8-year-olds that encourages girls to pursue studies and activities in the STEM fields. Through Ayyar’s text and the vibrant, colorful illustrations by Lauera Vanderheart, children can identify with the book’s characters and their challenges. The 32-page illustrated book is based on Ayyar’s experiences, those of her younger sister, Meera, and feedback from focus groups conducted at the Fairfax County Public Schools STEM Camp and Tech Adventure Camp, which took place at Lake Braddock Secondary School this summer.

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, a Kickstarter campaign launched to support the publication of Ayyar’s book. Kickstarter is a global crowdfunding platform. Ayyar must raise \$4,500 or more in pledges by Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017, 10 p.m. EDT. It is an all or nothing campaign. If the total amount is not raised by that date and time, no funding is provided and the Kickstarter campaign fails.

According to the company’s website, Kickstarter’s mission is to “...help bring creative projects to life.” People back a project by pledging money. Pledges must occur within a specified period, and final pledged dollars must equal or exceed the project’s stated goal.

AS OF SEPT. 13, 41 backers, including nine individuals from Herndon and four from Reston pledged a total of \$3,489 to-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LILLIAN KING

Leela Ayyar (left) wrote “Elara, STEM Girl” when her younger sister, Meera (right) sought her guidance after she encountered challenges in the STEM fields.

“My book is about a young girl named Elara who enjoys dolls, dress up, and sports. But what she really loves is all things STEM, Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.”

— Leela Ayyar, Senior, Oakton High School

ward Ayyar’s \$4,500 goal.

Susan Bingham, Chemistry Teacher, Science Department Chair at Oakton High School wrote a recommendation for Ayyar: “Leela has taken her capstone project to a higher level and found a way to share her passion for the STEM fields with children. It is vitally important to engage and inspire children, but especially girls, in STEM education. We must all work to end stereotypes and cultural biases that currently prevent girls from equally participating in STEM fields because we need the future contributions of all our children to help us overcome the many challenges we face.”

In Ayyar’s campaign, she explained that her book, “Elara, STEM Girl” not only encourages young girls to pursue and take an interest in STEM but also helps them from getting discouraged. “My book is about a

young girl named Elara who enjoys dolls, dress up, and sports. But what she really loves is all things STEM, Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics,” Ayyar said. “Young girls are naturally interested in STEM, but their interest usually fades as they grow older.”

Through her character, Elara, Ayyar offers readers tools to address issues such as being in the minority, math anxiety, stereotypes, and fear of failure while at the same time providing ways to build resiliency and overcome challenges when they express an interest or take part in STEM activities. By reaching out to young girls, Ayyar hopes to break the STEM ceiling for girls and close the gender gap. Ayyar cited in her Kickstarter campaign that only 24 percent of women are in STEM careers, yet 80 percent of the fastest growing careers are in



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEELA AYYAR

“Elara, STEM Girl” is a children’s book written by Oakton High School senior, Leela Ayyar. A crowdfunding campaign is underway to support publication expenses.

the STEM fields.

IF AYYAR EXCEEDS the \$4,500 goal, she seeks to create a series of Elara books and a website rich with STEM activities. “I have so many wonderful ideas on how to expand Elara’s adventures to continue to inspire young girls. Such as ‘Elara and the Stars’ where Elara explores astronomy. Or ‘Elara and the Notions of Potions,’ where she discovers just how fun chemistry can be. I’d also love for her to explore aeronautical engineering and robotics.”

Shannen Prindle is a friend of Ayyar’s at Oakton High School. She was the videographer for the Kickstarter campaign film. Prindle said, “Now more than ever we need to be encouraging young girls to pursue their interests in STEM. This book challenges the same stereotypes that I, and many other females, had to overcome to realize my true passion for science.”

If you are interested in supporting Ayyar’s senior year capstone project, visit www.kickstarter.com/projects/906365131/elara-stem-girl-childrens-book-to-inspire-a-love-f?ref=discovery.