

# Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Dana Singer, Director of Public Works, discusses current and future work on Elden and Station streets in a Town Hall meeting on Oct. 12.

HALLOWEEN  
FUN  
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## Downtown Attracts Standing-room Audience

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## LETTER

# Honoring Barbara Rose Johns

To the Editor:

On July 28, the Fairfax County School Board voted to rename J.E.B. Stuart High School in Annandale. The vote culminates a two-year debate over whether or not to change the name. On Oct. 26, the School Board faces another difficult vote in deciding what this new name will be.

I personally am inspired by Barbara Rose Johns, an extraordinary young woman whose story remains relatively unknown, but whose impact has reverberated throughout our country.

Barbara Johns, a 16-year-old student, attended Robert Russa Moton High School, the black high school in Farmville, Va. Conditions at Moton were unequal to the exclusively white high school across town.

Moton, designed for 200 students, had over 400 students. The rooms were cold in the winter, and wet when it rained.

Imagine trying to learn while holding onto your umbrella to keep your books, papers, and head from getting wet. The appeals of

the parents for a larger, properly equipped school for their children were largely ignored, though the school board did erect tar paper shacks to handle the overflow of students.

I don't know what triggered Barbara to take action for changes, or how she mustered the courage to fight the status quo, but fight back she did. On April 23, 1951, Barbara Johns recruited several of her classmates to help organize a student strike. She delivered a speech to the student body and rallied them to join in a demonstration in front of the county courthouse. The student leaders met with the School Superintendent but their request to address the unequal conditions of the black and white schools were ignored.

As the student strike went on, Barbara sought legal assistance from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) who agreed to help fight for an integrated school system.

Their suit in federal court was eventually joined with four other

cases and deliberated by the U.S. Supreme Court as part of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark case that declared "separate but equal" public schools unconstitutional.

In 2015, it was, again, teenagers who proposed changes in their school. Beginning with a film class video, students at J.E.B. Stuart High School began the campaign for a name change that led to the school board's July vote. Like Barbara, they advocated for a change that they truly believed in that many others find difficult to accept.

Now, 66 years after Barbara Johns led her fellow students to strike for a better school, we have an opportunity to honor her for helping us divert from "separate but equal," to striking a path that embraces diversity and equality. She exemplifies all we hope our students can become. My vote is for Barbara Rose Johns High School.

**Cathy Hudgins**

Hunter Mill District Supervisor

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# Shifting Political Battlefield for General Assembly

Solid blue urban areas separated by political beltway from solid red exurbs.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**N**orthern Virginia has more competitive seats than any other part of the commonwealth, a ring of districts that forms a beltway of sorts separating the inner solid blue in Arlington and Alexandria from the solid red in Loudoun and Prince William. That puts Fairfax County squarely in the driver's seat this November, when Democrats hope to pick up seats in an election that has balanced local issues like schools and roads with the ongoing reaction to President Donald Trump. That battle will be won or lost in suburban Northern Virginia, where the Washington suburbs are sprawling into areas that used to be farmland and orchards.

"We have a transportation beltway around D.C. in Northern Virginia, and we also have a competitive political beltway," said Quentin Kidd at Christopher Newport University. "It's the fault line between old Virginia and new Virginia, and it's the trenches of our current political battlefield."

The region has many incumbent delegates who are running unopposed, all Democrats: 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).

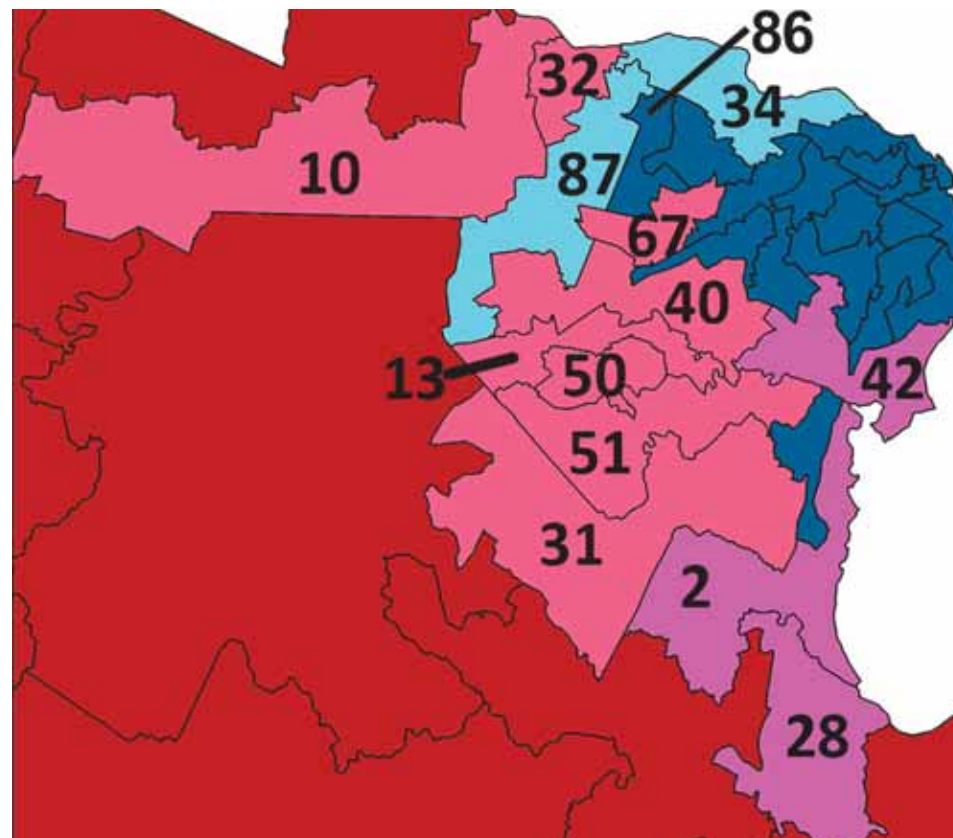
The decision of longtime Del. David Albo (R-42) to step down from public life after more than 20 years in office has created a vacuum that Democrats are eager to fill. Former Labor Department deputy administrator Kathy Tran emerged from a primary back in June, and she's been running hard against Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak ever since. Democrats have called attention to Mancheno-Smoak's early support of Donald Trump, whose candidacy she supported back in 2015 shortly after he declared his candidacy by calling Mexican immigrants rapists.

"Sometimes in order to generate change, in order to get new energy to actually feel passionate about a new beginning you need positive disruption," said Mancheno-Smoak in an interview with Connection Newspapers. "I see Trump as a positive disruptor."

Democrats pounced on that remark, issuing a press release in reaction.

"It's no surprise that she would call Donald Trump a positive disruptor as the most recent version of Trumpcare would disrupt access to affordable health care for 32 million people," said Virginia House Caucus spokeswoman Katie Baker in a written statement. "For Kathy Tran, on the other hand, health care is a moral issue."

**ASIDE FROM HAVING** three of the four open seats on the ballot this year, the region has more Republicans incumbents facing hotly contested races than any other part



MAP COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CENTER FOR POLITICS

## House districts of interest

### Category:

- Potentially competitive open seats
- Potentially competitive seats with D inc
- Potentially competitive seats with R inc
- Safe D seats
- Safe R seats

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**Cheryl Buford (R)**



**Kathleen Murphy (D)**



**Jennifer Boysko (D)**



**Linda Schulz (R)**

of the state. The Center for Politics at the University of Virginia identified eight Republicans facing competitive challenges and two Democrats. The incumbent who seems to be facing the strongest challenge is Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67), who sent out mailers emphasizing his work with Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"This is probably the best chance Democrats have of taking out a GOP incumbent," said Geoff Skelley, media relations coordinator at the Center for Politics. "Jim LeMunyon occupies the most Democratic seat held by a Republican in the House of Delegates." He is opposed by Karrie Delaney.

Another Republican incumbent facing a competitive race this year is Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who serves as the Republican caucus chairman. He's facing Democrat Donte Tanner, who raised more than \$350,000 to take on the popular Republican incumbent. That's a huge chunk of change, especially for a first-time candidate running against a

longtime incumbent. But it's about half of what Hugo was able to raise. That's only part of the value of incumbency. Hugo, who calls himself the "pothole delegate" for his support of constituent issues, has spent the last decade building goodwill among voters in the district.

"Folks like Tim Hugo have established a name brand and an identity in their districts, and voters generally have a favorable view toward them," said Mark Rozell, at George Mason University. "Democrats are energized, and they are counting on a big anti-Trump vote. But I think you can count on some split ticket voting, and perhaps many of those voters who are going to vote against the Republican at the top of the ticket will still vote for their local guy in the House of Delegates."

**REPUBLICAN INCUMBENTS** aren't the only General Assembly members facing challenges, though. Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) is one of two Democratic incumbents facing a challenge the Center for Politics has ranked as competitive. The seat was held for more than 40 years by Republican Vince Callahan, although it has been held by Republicans and Democrats since he retired a decade ago. The Republican in the race is Cheryl Buford, who struggled to answer questions about her own campaign platform in an interview with Connection Newspapers. She says she wants to reduce regulations, for example, but she couldn't name any specific ones she would spike. She also says she wants to tackle the opioid crisis, although she couldn't name any specific proposals on that either.

"While it will be tough for the GOP to win any seats currently held by Democrats in 2017, this is one of the few such seats with a recent track record of competitiveness," says Skelley. "So I don't think we can entirely count out Buford."

One race that is contested but not necessarily competitive is House District 86, where incumbent freshman Democrat Jennifer Boysko is defending the seat against Republican challenger Linda Schulz.

Two years ago, Democrats were able to flip the seat after the retirement of longtime Republican Del. Tom Rust (R-86), a former mayor of Herndon. Since that time, Boysko has become one of the most outspoken critics of the Republican House leadership, even staging a press conference to denounce how bills with little chance of passing the Courts of Justice were being killed without so much as a hearing. Despite the fact that the seat was held by a Republican for decades, though, the Center for Politics did not race this as a competitive race.

"Tom Rust was a moderate Republican who managed to hold that seat even as it became bluer and bluer," says Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "But now Jennifer Boysko controls it, and there's little reason to think she's in danger."



# Who Will Help Dreamers and Refugees?

Individuals, religious groups and other organizations share same goal.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**T**he supporters all agree on one thing. As Imam Ali Siddiqui said, “Nobody asked these kids whether they wanted to come to America. They go to school, they work hard, build a career. It will be a loss to send them back.” Figures distributed by The Commonwealth Institute in October 2017 show that if all Virginians who are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) became citizens, state and local tax contributions by young Virginians would rise from the current \$35 million to \$52.9 million a year.

As President Trump’s executive order released Sept. 5 threatens 800,000 DACA recipients with deportation, communities of supporters rally to their defense.

Individuals and groups converge from all directions to provide sanctuary, educational assistance, moral support, employment counseling and sometimes “in your face” advocacy for immigrant assistance. Each group has a plan and a niche but they are all working for the same goal — passage of the Dream Act, which will offer the opportunity for a long, but legal, path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Norma Kacen is part of the Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees, an Arlington-based group, which she co-founded with Wendy Chan in the fall of 2016. “I grew up on Federal Hill in Providence, Rhode Island, an ethnic ghetto. It was a closed world with circles of ghettos — Portuguese, Italian, French, German, Polish,” she said, drawing circles with her finger on the table.

Kacen has recently been up on Capitol Hill as a volunteer lobbyist with the American Association of University Women visiting key senators to urge passage of the Dream Act. “All of the comments were ‘we couldn’t afford it,’ but,” she says, pulling out a talking sheet, “ending DACA and kicking recipients out of the labor force would cost the United States \$433.4 billion in GDP and decrease Social Security and Medicare contributions by \$24.6 billion over the next decade.” This is according to the Center for American Progress, a self-described progressive independent nonpartisan policy institute.

As of November 2016, 645,000 DACA recipients nationwide are employed, and they pay taxes. Kacen said, “My challenge to the senators was yes, we pay for their education like anyone else who pays taxes.” But most of the senators were unmoved by the arguments. Kacen says it is

also important to acknowledge a breakdown of DACA by Congressional districts because “some our representatives only listen to their own constituents.”

Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees was established to combat the anti-Muslim rhetoric and to be a welcoming friend to all refugees. “We didn’t want to duplicate the efforts of others so we partner with other organizations,” she said.

**RECENTLY THE GROUP** held three advocacy workshops for people supportive of refugees. About 50 people attended one of the workshops at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church in Arlington and a Muslim site in Fairfax. These workshops are non-partisan with the purpose to teach the skills necessary for effective advocacy.

“I was really delighted and it was extremely heartening that millennials attended. Every organization is trying to figure out what they can do to attract the disengaged millennials,” Kacen said.

The second event, which was held in the spring, brought American professionals together with the often highly skilled immigrants to help the immigrants navigate the workplace. “So we connect the immigrants together with American professionals in their own field to allow the professionals to talk.” Many of the refugees were doctors, architects, engineers and entrepreneurs in their countries and now have low-level jobs in America. The purpose of these life skills programs is to increase connections to help the immigrants reach their potential.

The third focus for this year is a large community event planned for the spring. It would be intended to show the resilience of the immigrants by “focusing on the incredible skills in the cultural arts such as music, arts and fashion. It is to show the capacity to overcome, the triumph of the human spirit,” she said.

Are they making progress? Kacen paused, “It’s hard to say. But ... there are so many people engaged.”

Monica Sarmiento is executive director of Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Right (VACIR), a coalition that began in 2013 with eight organizations, now grown to 16. She says their organization is focused on how to have more comprehensive immigrant reform in Virginia. “Many organizations have their niches demographically or ethnically but we tend to be looking at what we’re doing statewide and collaboratively. The most important empha-



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**Remembering her youth in Rhode Island, Norma Kacen of Arlington traces circles on the table as she describes neighborhood ghettos of people segregated by ethnicity.**



**Sumi Yi**



**Monica Sarmiento**



**The Rev. Laura Martin**

sis is to push different community representatives at the table — African, Korean, Muslim.”

Sarmiento says since VACIR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization they don’t directly lobby but have encouraged people to call their members of Congress, and the 16 organizations who are part of the coalition often engage in advocacy. For instance the Commonwealth Institute has prepared a fact sheet outlining how DREAMers grow our economy with 61 percent opening a bank account, 64.5 percent buying their first car, 97 percent becoming employed or enrolled in school. It adds that young people with DACA status contribute nearly \$711 million to Virginia’s economy annually including nearly \$35 million in state and local taxes. The conclusion is that ending DACA could reduce Virginia state and local tax revenue by almost \$13 million a year.

Members of VACIR include such groups as Legal Aid Justice Center, SEEC, VOCOLAO, NAKASEC, The Commonwealth Institute and Virginia New Majority. These groups have focused on the constituents of two U.S. representatives in Virginia, Scott Taylor (R-2) and Barbara Comstock (R-10), who they are trying to convince “to do the right thing and support a clean Dream Act.”

Sarmiento says the VACIR board had decided for the first time to endorse a clean Dream Act, the first time they had endorsed

any legislation. “A clean Dream Act would not have such provisions as mandatory verification (death by 1,000 papers), an increase in ICE agents, increased money for deportation, funding for the border wall, inability to sponsor family members, no pathway to citizenship.”

She says there needs to be a much larger conversation to spotlight the injustices happening now with undocumented immigrants who have already lost their DACA status due to President Trump’s executive order or who will lose their Temporary Protective Status (TPS) if it is not renewed. These people could be deported any day. She says 300,000 of these are from Latin America; 200,000 of these are Salvadoran. Sarmiento was raised in Northern Virginia but her parents emigrated from El Salvador fleeing war. “They were fortunate my grandmother lived here and got her legal status through the Reagan amnesty act so my father got legal status.”

Sumi Yi, Virginia community organizer for National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), a community-based progressive Asian American and Pacific Islander organization, says their mission is to organize Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social, racial, and economic justice. She points out that out of the cur-

SEE WHO WILL HELP, PAGE 5



# Dreamers

FROM PAGE 4

rent 800,000 DACA 135,000 are Asian-Americans. The current efforts focus on DACA with phone banks, vigils and visits to Virginia legislators urging them to support of the Dream Act. “Representatives Barbara Comstock and Scott Taylor are on the fence about whether to co-sponsor the legislation,” said Yi. NAKASEC is planning a day soon when they will join with other organizations and knock on every door they can find. “Come on; we can do this,” she said.

Yi says that Korea is a land of opportunity with a great educational system. “I can go there now and make a lot of money but what keeps us rooted here is liberty and freedom. In Korea,” she said, “You have to think a certain way. Culturally and value-wise, I’m American.”

Yi takes a moment to reflect on their recent 30-day vigil in front of the White House.

She said they slept on benches, talked to people, got signatures and even did the “DACA dance.”

“The Secret Service told us we were the weirdest demonstrators they had ever seen at the White House; we even had a karaoke night. But we raised a lot of money,” Yi said. “Some people were supportive but others were being really mean. We had kids with us and I could see they were so hurt. I don’t know what’s going to happen but we’re stronger together. We have to do something.”

She declares they’re going to get education and driver’s licenses for everyone in Virginia. “This moment is bigger than all of us.”

**SIXTY FOUR PLACES** of worship joined together after the election with the announcement of upcoming anti-immigration legislation. Imam Ali Saddiqui, who is part of a transitional leadership team for the group, says Sanctuary DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) includes a number of Protestant churches as well as several synagogues, Catholic churches and his Muslim Institute. One of their actions has been organizing rallies in support of DACA and immigrant rights. “I was just there last week at the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in D.C. and at the mayor’s office.” Since there was just a raid where ICE went after 500 undocumented immigrants and 14 were arrested, the group was asking for their release and for the mayor not to cooperate with ICE officials.

In addition, they have been visiting congressional offices in support of the Dream Act and phoning members of Congress. “Actually this is on a party line. Democrats are very supportive and Republicans not.”

He says you hear the argument that immigrants cost the government money and don’t pay taxes. “Let me tell you my own story. I came here from Pakistan on March 23, 1969 originally as an asylee. I looked for a job and started working and paying taxes March 24 and have paid ever since.”

The Rev. Laura Martin, associate pastor for at Rock Spring UCC in Arlington and also a member of DMV Sanctuary, says there are a number of unresolved issues about the concept of offering sanctuary to an immigrant in a church building. “We are trying to come up with a wider definition of sanctuary such as offering solidarity or support for immigrants when they have an order for deportation. So in the spring another member of the congregation and I picked up a woman living in D.C. with her two children in a



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**Imam Ali Saddiqui, transitional leader for Sanctuary DMV, demonstrates outside of ICE office in D.C.**

small apartment with 13 people. We were there to support her for her deportation hearing. The woman had fled El Salvador, which is the murder capital of the world. We took her to Rosslyn to immigration court. All of us had to go through a metal detector including the children, and they took away the food in her purse.”

Martin says 80 different cases were all given the same 11 a.m. time for consideration. “It wasn’t a grand court — it was an institutional setting with low ceilings, bright light and so crowded that people, even with babies, couldn’t sit down. It was very procedural and you heard the same thing dozens of times. They took cases with attorneys first so we had to wait for a long time.”

Martin says somewhere along the way the woman’s heavy ankle bracelet started beeping because the battery was low. “There was nowhere to recharge it so it just kept beeping until we got to Subway for lunch in the late afternoon and she could plug it in.” When it came her turn the bilingual judge asked if the immigrant needed time to get an attorney and postponed her case until August.

Then they had to go to Vienna for a regular ankle bracelet check-in. “They could track where she was.”

Martin said the Sanctuary DMV group is not involved in case management so she doesn’t know what happened at the August court date. “The courts can’t keep up. They are rescheduling out to the end of 2018.”

An excerpt from a poem sent by Martin to the congregation concludes:

“I have known the grandmothers who  
Smile even though they have left  
Their country of spices and markets,  
Have left their open windows with blue curtains  
Have left the tramping of war,  
Have left their songs and language,  
And believed America when we said,  
“This is the land of the free.””

*This is the third article in a series focusing on DACA.*

## DACA by Congressional District

U.S. Rep.	DACA Recipients
Beyer (D-8)	2,000
Comstock (R-10)	1,600
Connelly (D-11)	2,400

DACA Eligible
5,400
3,700
5,300

DATA PROVIDED BY NAKASEC

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# OPINION

## Don't Stay Home

Your vote counts this round;  
nation is watching.

Every year is election year in Virginia. Virginia offers multiple examples that prove every vote counts.

This year, each Virginia voter will vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and their member of the House of Delegates. Virginia is one of two Governor's races, and many are watching the Virginia race to as a harbinger of what to expect in 2018.

No matter how you vote, polling shows that the Governor's race could be very close.

**EDITORIAL** While there are quite a few uncontested races for members of the House of Delegates, several races could also be close, with the outcome likely to depend on turnout.

There is every reason to get out and vote.

### Absentee Voting in Person

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including the possibility that you will be working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: [elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html](http://elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html)

There are two ways to vote absentee: in-person and by mail. To vote by mail, you will need to apply for an absentee ballot; if you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location.

See your locality's elections website for more.

### Bring Photo ID, There Are Alternatives

Virginia has voter identification requirements; plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether absentee or on Election Day.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification

## General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

To find a registration office where you can obtain photo ID, even on the day of an election, visit: [vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup).

### Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo

## On the Ballot

#### Governor

Ralph S. Northam (D)  
Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R)  
Clifford D. Hyra (L)

#### Lieutenant Governor

Justin E. Fairfax (D)  
Jill H. Vogel (R)

#### Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D)\*  
John D. Adams (R)

#### House of Delegates

##### 34th District

Kathleen Murphy (D) incumbent  
Cheryl Buford (R)

##### 35th District

Mark Keam (D) incumbent, unopposed

##### 36th District

Ken Plum (D) incumbent, unopposed

##### 37th District

David Bulova (D) incumbent, unopposed

##### 38th District

Kay Kory (D) incumbent  
Paul Haring (R)

##### 39th District

Vivian Watts (D) incumbent, unopposed

##### 40th District

Donte Tanner (D)  
Tim Hugo (R) incumbent

##### 41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D) incumbent, unopposed

##### 42nd District

Kathy Tran (D)  
Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R)

##### 43rd District

Mark Sickles (D) incumbent, unopposed

#### 44th District

Paul Krizek (D) incumbent, unopposed

#### 45th District

Mark Levine (D) incumbent, unopposed

#### 53rd District

Marcus Simon (D) incumbent  
Mike Casey (I)

#### 67th District

Karrie Delaney (D)  
Jim LeMunyon (R) incumbent

#### 86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D) incumbent  
Linda Schulz (R)

#### Fairfax County School Bonds

Voters will vote yes or no on a \$315 million public school bond referendum on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the Fairfax County Public Schools' current plans to use this bond money are to plan and/or construct two new elementary schools, one in Fairfax/Oakton area and another in the northwest county area; relocate one modular building; plan additions at three existing high schools to add capacity at Madison, Stuart and West Potomac; plan and/or construct renovations of 10 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools. See [www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum](http://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum).

#### Fairfax County Office of Elections

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections)  
Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711  
Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725  
Email: [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER White House Ornaments Sale.

Through Dec. 15, 2017 White House Ornaments available for purchase from Assistance League of Northern Virginia for \$22 per ornament. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit's children's programs. Local delivery can be arranged. Visit

[northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Herndon High School Library** needs volunteers. olunteering at Herndon High School? The library loves volunteers. Training available

to help with re-shelving books, pulling books for teacher use, helping to check passes, or other special projects. To learn more, email [hhs\\_library@fcps.edu](mailto:hhs_library@fcps.edu).

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Oak Hill & Herndon  
**CONNECTION**

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# Facing – and Fighting – the Opioid Crisis

## Connolly and Bulova host Opioid Crisis Roundtable.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he inbox of any member of Congress overflows with information on hundreds, if not thousands, of issues and requests to address the problems that plague their constituencies. So how did the growing opioid crisis and its effects on local communities find its way to the top of the pile for U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)?

Connolly found himself “so taken aback” when doing a “little data reading.”

“I knew it was bad. I knew it was affecting a lot of people,” but the numbers stunned him.

Connolly and his staff dug deeper. Calls, meetings, research, and even some drive-alongs with law enforcement followed. Then it was time to bring together the experts, the policy-makers, the front-line responders, representatives of those personally affected, and the public at large. Joining forces with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Connolly and Board Chairman Sharon Bulova hosted a roundtable event on Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Fairfax County Government Center, that was aired live, as well as recorded and available for viewing on the County’s Channel 16.

“This ... is an opportunity for our community to come together and bring the opioid epidemic out of the shadows,” said Connolly, “... and by bringing this panel of experts together we hope people will know they aren’t alone in this fight.”

**TO START THINGS OFF**, both Connolly and Bulova shared some of those numbers that so affected the congressman.

❖ Since 2000, the opioid and heroin epidemic has claimed more than 200,000 lives — more than three times the number killed in the Vietnam War.

❖ According to the National Center for Health Statistics, more than 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016 — an increase of more than 20 percent over the previous year.

❖ Deaths from the synthetic opioid fentanyl have increased by 540 percent in just three years.

❖ In the Commonwealth of Virginia, opioid overdose deaths rose by about 40 percent from 2015 to 2016, and synthetic opioid deaths rose from 262 to 692 during that time.

❖ Northern Virginia is not immune from



**At the roundtable addressing the Opioid Epidemic. Speakers included U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Board Chair Bulova, and members of law enforcement, the medical profession, nonprofits, treatment providers, and state Secretary of Health and Human Services William Hazel.**

**Nick Yacoub, a recovery coach, addresses the panel, recounting his own struggles with addiction from an early age: “Part of the problem [in combating the opioid crisis] is that addiction is seen as a moral failure.”**



the epidemic, with Fairfax County ranking number one in opioid-related deaths during the 2015-2016 period. Prince William County (parts of which are included in Connolly’s district) reported a doubling of their opioid-related deaths during that same year.

Bulova added that between January and September last year, Fairfax County Emergency Medical personnel reported 369 uses of the drug Naloxone, used to treat people suffering from opioid overdose. “That’s more than one per day,” said Bulova. “These are disturbing numbers.” The overdoses were the result of prescription drug usage, heroin, and synthetic opioids like fentanyl. “And as many of you may know,” noted Bulova, “fentanyl is 10 times more potent than heroin.”

Some studies have reported fentanyl as being as much as 50 times more potent than morphine.

**THE ASSEMBLED PANEL** illustrated the depth and breadth of the crisis. Joining Connolly and Bulova were state Secretary of Health and Human Resources William Hazel; John Chesek, battalion chief, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department EMS Division; Maj. Amanda Lambert, director of

**Dr. Husam Alathari, medical director of INOVA’s CATS program, says that the medical profession and treatment providers need to do their parts in fighting the opioid epidemic: “Addiction needs to be treated like the chronic medical condition that it is.”**



Support Services, Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center; Ginny Atwood-Lovitt, executive director of the Chris Atwood Foundation; Dr. Husam Alathari, medical director, INOVA CATS program; Jennifer Lofland, field intelligence manager with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency; Lyn Tomlinson, assistant deputy director of the Fairfax Falls Church Community Service Board; and Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, director, Fairfax County Department of Health.

Each speaker brought their own perspective to the issue, highlighting the profound negative effects being felt at all layers and levels of society, strengthening the argument that it will take the efforts of all of these elements of the community, along with the public, to wage an effective war on the opioid epidemic.

“We can’t arrest our way out of this,” said Hazel. “This is an addiction epidemic, not an opioid epidemic, and there are really only three outcomes to addiction: live with it, recovery, or death.”

Hazel, and other panel members, spoke of the effects of the crisis, beyond the immediate loss of life and the heartbreaking impact that loss has on family and friends.

Drug addiction also causes or exacerbates

other medical conditions. Drug addiction in pregnant women often leads to the birth of addicted infants, or babies suffering from other medical problems. In addition to the human cost to these innocent lives, Hazel pointed out that neo-natal care for these afflicted newborns can cost about \$70,000 per child.

To highlight that point, Lambert reported that 100 percent of the pregnant women currently incarcerated in Prince William County are in need of methadone to counter addiction.

Often-times, elevated crime rates are found in areas experiencing high addiction levels, and “there’s certainly a negative impact on the workforce and productivity,” said Hazel.

Chesek spoke of the added dangers now facing first responders when called out to drug-overdose emergencies.

Some of the new drugs can be transferred to the responder through touch, or even through inhalation. New gear and new methods of protecting police and emergency personnel, as well as hospital staff, are now required, and the chief expressed his gratitude for a grant from the state to provide doses of Narcan to help protect those on the frontline, as well as the victims they assist.

The panelists were in agreement that the first step in stopping the epidemic is to end the stigma attached to addiction.

**MANY OF THOSE** suffering from opioid addiction came to their situation as the result of legally prescribed medications to alleviate pain, often following a surgery or as the result of some accident or injury.

“You have to understand,” said Alathari, “that these drugs can literally re-wire your brain.” Alathari cited studies showing that even limited use of opioids can lead to changes in brain chemistry that makes the drug user willing to “give up food, water and sex — the main life drivers — for the drug.” The doctor said that physicians need to do their part and recognize addiction as a chronic medical condition. “These patients struggle every day. There are FDA-approved medications that can help, but the because of the stigma, the patients are often encouraged to stop taking them.”

Atwood-Lovitt also pointed to the stigma associated with addiction as an obstacle to those engaged in the war against it. Atwood-Lovitt lost her brother Christopher to an opioid overdose. During the years that Christopher and his family struggled with his addiction, Atwood-Lovitt recalled the friends and family members who “turned their backs,” no longer wanting to associate with Christopher because he was “one of those people.” Employment and normal

SEE ROUNDTABLE, PAGE 10



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**“Aida” the Musical.** Through Nov. 11, various times at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods Village Center at 2310 Colts Neck Road. Reston Players presents “Aida” with music by pop legend Sir Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. Visit [restonplayers.org/show1/](http://restonplayers.org/show1/).

**Art Exhibit.** Through Nov. 18 at Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Artist Sue Wrbican, bringing her most recent photographic series inspired by the landscape paintings of American Surrealist Kay Sage (1898-1963). Free. Call 571-267-5000 or visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org).

**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.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 26

**Community Outreach Support.** 5-8 p.m. at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Food, drink specials, and a 50/50 raffle that supports the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation's community outreach initiatives. Visit [www.nwfcufoundation.org](http://www.nwfcufoundation.org).

**Meet the Artists.** 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza N. Meet the artists behind the The Art of Community exhibit which showcases the legacy of public art in Reston and the planned community's collection of outdoor sculptures and public artworks. Call 703-709-7700 or email [restonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:restonmuseum@gmail.com).

## OCT. 26-29

**Washington West Film Festival.** Various times at Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Variety of independent films. Visit [wwfilmfest.com](http://wwfilmfest.com).

## FRIDAY/OCT. 27

**Pavilion Party: Unmasking the Story.** 9 p.m. at the Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery St., Reston. Join us for the Washington West Film Festival annual Party at the Reston Town Center Pavilion, this year featuring a Masquerade themed party. Audiences, filmmakers, and VIPs will enjoy an evening of music, dancing, drinks, and food. Attendees are encouraged to wear a mask from a favorite movie. Suggested dress: cocktail attire. Visit [wwfilmfest.com/](http://wwfilmfest.com/) to purchase tickets.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Reston Movie Series.** 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 1967 suspense film where a recently blinded woman is terrorized by a trio of thugs while they search for a valuable doll they believe is in her apartment. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Meet the Author.** 2 p.m. at Scrawl Books, in Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Ed Asner will be signing copies of his book “THE GROUCHY HISTORIAN: An Old-Time Lefty Defends Our Constitution Against Right-Wing Hypocrites and Nutjobs.” Call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).



**Photo Transfer Workshop.** 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. \$45/\$55. Visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org) or call 703-471-9242.

**Meet the Musician.** 7 p.m. at Bow Tie Cinema, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Clive Davis is the subject of film that will screen at Washington West Film Festival entitled “Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives,” which profiles the five-decade career of a music producer. This is part of Washington West Film Festival which runs Oct. 25-30. Visit [wwfilmfest.com/](http://wwfilmfest.com/).

**Trick or Treat at Reston Town Center.** noon-4 p.m. at 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Costumed children can celebrate Halloween with visits to participating retailers and the Information Center for treats and goodies. Visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 29

**Superhero Among Us.** 10 a.m.-9 p.m. p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center 11862 Market St. Be Your Own Superhero Day, partnering with ArtInsights and hosting superhero-themed events all day long. Email [info@scrawlbooks.com](mailto:info@scrawlbooks.com), call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

**Gray Goose Studios Class.** 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Children and teens can

create art in the medium of their choice with assistance from the instructor as needed. Drawing, painting, collage, mosaic, and sculpture supplies provided. Artists can choose one medium or work in mixed media. \$25. Call 703-956-9560 or visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

## MONDAY/OCT. 30

**Spice Up Your Life Lecture.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join nutritionist Natalie Kannan to learn about the health benefits of common culinary spices. This seminar includes an interactive tasting experience that will awaken the senses. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 4

**Storytime with the Author.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center 11862 Market St. Storytime with children's author Megan Wagner Lloyd. Email [info@scrawlbooks.com](mailto:info@scrawlbooks.com), call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

**Singles Dinner and Movie Night.** 5 p.m. at American Tap Room in Reston, 1811 Library Street. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced

## Art of Community

**On Thursday, Oct. 26, meet the artists behind the “The Art of Community,” exhibit which showcases the legacy of public art in Reston and the planned community’s collection of outdoor sculptures and public artworks. Artists will be on hand 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza N. Call 703-709-7700 or email [restonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:restonmuseum@gmail.com).**

adults. \$32 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. Visit [www.newbeginningsusa.org](http://www.newbeginningsusa.org).

## MONDAY/NOV. 6

**Franchise Fair.** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive. Experts, lenders and a dozen franchisors from various industries will discuss the franchise process. \$35; \$49 at the door. Register at [www.capitalfranchiseshow.com](http://www.capitalfranchiseshow.com). For questions, contact Heather Rosen at 703-291-0939 or [hrosen@frannet.com](mailto:hrosen@frannet.com).

## TUESDAY/NOV. 7

**Meet the Author.** 7-9 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Reston. “Calculated Risk: The Supersonic Life and Times of Gus Grissom” event with biographer George Leopold. Email [info@scrawlbooks.com](mailto:info@scrawlbooks.com), call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

## NOV. 10-12

**Herndon High School Theatre presents “Twelfth Night.”** Various times at Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St. William Shakespeare's holiday

comedy set in the roaring '20s. \$6 per student and \$12 per adult. Visit [www.HerndonDrama.org](http://www.HerndonDrama.org).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 11

**Meet the Author.** 7-9 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Reston. Reading and signing with author Melissa Scholes Young of her book “Flood.” Email [info@scrawlbooks.com](mailto:info@scrawlbooks.com), call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

**Dancing with the Services.** 7 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel Dulles, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon. The event, based on the popular television show Dancing with the Stars, will feature local DMV celebrities. Visit [www.dancereston.com](http://www.dancereston.com) or call 571-306-7925.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 12

**A Visual Journey Exhibit.** 2-4 p.m. at Jo Anne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center, Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Photographs by Carla Steckley including infrared and the newest work, triptychs on canvas will be on display from Nov. 1-27. Free. Email [CPSteckley@aol.com](mailto:CPSteckley@aol.com) or call 703-476-6016.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 16

**DMV2Go at the Pavilion.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. With the DMV wireless office on wheels, apply for or renew an ID card and driver's license; get driving records; obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services online at [dmv.virginia.gov](http://dmv.virginia.gov).

**Meet the Poet.** 7-9 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. How to Prove a Theory event with poet Nicole Tong. Email [info@scrawlbooks.com](mailto:info@scrawlbooks.com), call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

## NOV. 16-18

**Herndon High School Theatre presents “Twelfth Night.”** Various times at Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St. William Shakespeare's holiday comedy set in the roaring '20s. \$6 per student and \$12 per adult. Visit [www.HerndonDrama.org](http://www.HerndonDrama.org).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**Gray Goose Studios Class.** 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Children and teens can create art in the medium of their choice with assistance from the instructor as needed. Drawing, painting, collage, mosaic, and sculpture supplies provided. Artists can choose one medium or work in mixed media. \$25. Call 703-956-9560 or visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

**Meet the Cat Expert/Author.** 4-6 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. “Purrs of Wisdom” discussion and signing with author/ cat expert Ingrid King. Email [info@scrawlbooks.com](mailto:info@scrawlbooks.com), call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 24

**Meet the Authors.** 11:30 a.m. at Scrawl Books, in Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Lezlie Evans and Joan Waites will be doing a storytime and book signing with their new Christmas books “Finding Christmas” and “An Artist's Night Before Christmas.” Call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

## HALLOWEEN FUN



## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

**71st Annual Halloween Parade.** 7 p.m. on Maple Avenue, Vienna. Join friends and neighbors, ghouls and goblins for one of Vienna's traditions: the 71st annual Halloween Parade, hosted by the Vienna Business Association. Pre-registration is required for businesses and organizations who wish to march in the parade. No registration needed for children who want to wear costumes and walk in the parade; children must be accompanied by their mummy or another adult. Visit [bit.ly/2huu6L0](http://bit.ly/2huu6L0) for more.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 26

**Annual Trick or Treat Party.** 5-7 p.m. at the Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Pet costume contest and “Hotel Transylvania” screening at 6:30 in Strawberry Park. Visit [mosaicdistrict.com/](http://mosaicdistrict.com/) for more.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Trick or Treat at Reston Town Center.** noon-4 p.m. at 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Costumed children can celebrate Halloween with visits to participating retailers and the Information Center for treats and goodies. Visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 29

**Pumpkin Carving Lessons.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, McLean. Executive Chef Edwin Amaya shares his best-kept secrets for carving pumpkins and Emma Choi, student representative to Real Food for Kids, will be the special guest followed by a costume contest. \$20.00 per child and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to “Real Food for Kids.” Call 703-442-9110 for more.

**Spookappella Halloween Jam.** 2 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Cover band rocking R&B, Hip-Hop, Funk, and soul hits of the last five decades. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.





PHOTO COURTESY THE TOWN OF HERNDON

This photo of Chuck Foster, the Herndon Police Department's new part-time parking enforcement officer, was posted to the Herndon Police Department Facebook page on Oct. 11.



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Herndon Police Chief Maggie DeBoard explains to the council that the new parking enforcement officer will focus on enforcing the same laws and rules that police officers have always enforced.

## Town Equips New Parking Enforcement Officer with Tech

The Herndon Town Council voted to equip the Herndon Police Department with technology to enforce parking laws in the town during its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

In a unanimous vote, the council approved the purchase of parking enforcement equipment from Complus Data Innovation, Inc. The equipment will be used by the police department's newly-approved, part-time parking enforcement officer who was

hired on Oct. 3. He will work for the department for 30 hours a week.

"Nothing is changing," Herndon Police Chief Maggie DeBoard said. "All we're doing is ticketing [for laws and parking rules that are] there now and will enforce like we always have."

"[The new system and equipment] will cut down on staff time and make parking enforcement more efficient," she added. "It's nothing but a ticketing management

system."

Town staff members said they would be letting businesses know that enforcement would be improving now that a dedicated position was filled.

"We will notify downtown businesses that enforcement is impending ... for a concentrated effort," Town Manager Bill Ashton said during the meeting.

Some residents were concerned about the move to aggressively pursue parking tick-

ets. "I know it's going to be very difficult being a landlord downtown ... and we're going to experience a lot of things, a lot of pet peeves, a lot of habits to be broken," Steve Mitchell, a land developer and owner in the town, said during the meeting. "I'm fully supportive of what we're doing, but I want consistency. It has to be consistent. I don't want to end up like Reston Town Center. I don't think any of us do."

— FALLON FORBUSH



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

## Paying Tribute to Veterans

Mayor Lisa Merkel and the Herndon Town Council proclaimed that the town will annually observe Nov. 11 as Veterans Day. The proclamation that was approved encourages all individuals to honor the day with appropriate events and activities; and request that all citizens take time to pause in silent tribute to veterans. The proclamation was presented to Bob Thompson, the 1st Vice Commander of the Herndon/Reston American Legion Post 184. All veterans and service members were invited to join the town council and staff for the presentation of the proclamation.

## EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOLS FAIR

November 5, 2017 | 11:00am - 2:00pm  
[www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com](http://www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com)

Showcasing the many wonderful school choices available to families of children with diverse learning needs. Admission is FREE and open to the public.

### KATZEN ARTS CENTER

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY @ WARD CIRCLE  
 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW & NEBRASKA AVE NW  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

THE AUBURN SCHOOL | CHELSEA SCHOOL | THE CHILDREN'S GUILD  
 COMMONWEALTH ACADEMY | THE DIENER SCHOOL | EAGLE HILL SCHOOL  
 EMERSON PREPARATORY SCHOOL | FORMAN SCHOOL  
 THE FROST SCHOOL, PART OF SHEPPARD PRATT HEALTH SYSTEM | FUSION ACADEMY D.C.  
 THE GOW SCHOOL | THE IVYMOUNT SCHOOL | THE KATHERINE THOMAS SCHOOL  
 THE KINGSBURY CENTER | THE LAB SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON | LANDMARK SCHOOL  
 THE LEELANAU SCHOOL | THE MADDUX SCHOOL | MANSEF | MIDDLEBRIDGE SCHOOL  
 NATIONAL CHILD RESEARCH CENTER | THE NEWTON SCHOOL | THE NORA SCHOOL  
 OAKWOOD SCHOOL | PARKMONT SCHOOL | PHILLIPS PROGRAMS SCHOOLS  
 THE SIENA SCHOOL | WYE RIVER UPPER SCHOOL

Sponsored by the American University School of Education

For more information, please contact Bekah Atkinson at [exceptionalschoolsfair@gmail.com](mailto:exceptionalschoolsfair@gmail.com)



**Announcements**

**We pay top \$ for STERLING,  
MEN'S WATCHES,  
JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY,  
FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.**

**Schefer Antiques**  
703-241-0790  
theschefers@cox.net

**Employment**

Solution Architect (Master's w/ 3 yrs exp or Bachelor's w/ 5 yrs exp; Major: CS, Engg, Biz Admin, Math or equiv.; Other suitable qualifications acceptable) – Herndon, VA. Job entails working w/ & requires experience including: Implementing Salesforce Communities, Sales & Service Cloud Solutions; Preparing Salesforce presentations & prototypes; Designing, developing & implementing cloud-based mission critical CRM applications. Relocation & travel to unanticipated locations within USA possible. Send resumes to Salem Infotech Inc., Attn: HR, 2201 Cooperative Way, Suite 600, Herndon, VA 20171.

**Employment**

**Cleaners Wanted Parttime Evenings**  
Mon. thru Friday \$10.00 per hour  
Must be experienced  
Pass Background Check  
Pass Drug Test  
Bilingual  
Call Larry after 6pm  
703-628-9280

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**NEWS**

# Closet Cleaning Time for NextStop Theatre Company

**Nonprofit organization sells half of its costume sale inventory in four hours.**



**Claire Tarallo, 11, of Herndon (right) purchases her Halloween costume from Matt C. Thompson, Managing Director, Next Stop Theatre Company (left) at the organization's Costume Sale held Saturday, Sept. 30 at 750 Center St.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**N**extStop Theatre Company located in the Town of Herndon held a huge costume sale on Saturday, Sept. 30, 7-11 a.m. at their storage area, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sept. 30 marked the last day of the nonprofit organization's fiscal year.

Matt Thompson, Managing Director of NextStop Theatre Company reported the sale featured more than 50 percent of the professional theatre company's costume inventory. Proceeds would benefit the nonprofit organization's outreach and education programs.

Evan Hoffman is the Producing Artistic Director of NextStop Theatre. Dressed in a fuzzy white bear costume, Hoffman lumbered about the parking lot turned costume shop putting the finishing touches on the sale. With a cold wind blowing down Vine Street, Hoffman shuffled off to get a hot coffee at

the Green Lizard Cycling & Coffee Bar. Upon his return, Hoffman reported a cyclist had given his costume "the eye."

Hoffman said that the cyclist asked him why he was dressed like that. Upon learning the bear costume was part of the theatre's costume sale being held that day, the cyclist literally bought it off Hoffman's back. Hoffman had returned to change out of the costume, back into human clothes, and give the bear costume to its new owner. Claire Tarallo, 11, of Herndon and her mother Liz arrived at the sale shortly after 9 a.m. Claire was on a mission. She wanted to dress up like a fairy tale

character for Halloween and knew she could find something appropriate at the NextStop Theatre Costume Sale. "My friends and I want to be fairy tale characters for Halloween," Tarallo said. After looking for a short time, Claire spied two items, snatched them up, and made her way over to Thompson to pay. "I'm buying a little Red Riding Hood costume and a Little Bo Peep hat," Tarallo said happily.

As the costume sale came to close shortly after 11 a.m., Hoffman reported NextStop Theatre Company had sold over one-half of the total inventory they had on sale that day with approximately 150 transactions.

For more information on NextStop Theatre Company, visit nextstoptheatre.org

## Roundtable Addresses Opioid Crisis

FROM PAGE 7

social outlets were suddenly beyond reach "when he needed them the most." "Denial is deadly," said Atwood-Lovitt. Stigma reduction, education and prevention is essential. The Chris Atwood Foundation is now engaged in advocating for opioid addiction education and treatment, and provides training in the use of Narcan, as well as helping to make the overdose revival medication more readily available.

Although in his opening remarks Connolly declared that the day's proceedings would avoid putting politics on the table, there were a few occasions when the congressman felt compelled to address the need for "political will" as part of the solution.

"Expanding Medicaid in Virginia would bring an additional \$100 million to aid in the fight against opioid addiction. Another \$200 million would be available for mental health treatment and initiatives. We need all of the resources we can get to fight this."

**CONNOLLY** also announced his introduction of the "Opioid Immediate Suspension Order Act (H.R. 4073)." The legislation is designed to restore the DEA's authority to suspend a pharmaceutical distributor's license if the Attorney General finds their actions to be causing an imminent danger to the public health and safety. H.R. 4073 is Connolly's response to the potentially crippling effect of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016 on the DEA's ability to stop over-distribution.

Connolly doesn't think this is the time to make it harder for the Drug Enforcement Agency "to do their

job," citing an example in a small West Virginia town, with a population of 2,924, where one distributor was able to provide one pharmacy with 258,000 hydrocodone pills in one month, not to mention the fact that "more than 300 million opioid prescriptions were written in the U.S. last year – enough for every man, woman, and child to have their own bottle of powerful painkillers.

Members of the audience were given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Many of those who spoke, used their time to recount personal stories of family members or of their own struggles, like Nick Yacoub, who began his addiction at the age of 10 and who is now a recovery coach.

"Recovery is possible," said Yacoub, who described himself as a successful product of the Fairfax Falls Church CSB treatment programs, "especially if we stop viewing addiction as a moral failure."

The roundtable concluded with messages of hope and support, and promises by the speakers to continue the fight and to continue working with each other to end the epidemic. Bulova urged members of the public to share the information and to direct others to the video of the event, and to the county's website for information and resources.

The Board of Supervisors has also recently established an Opioid Crisis Task Force that will be charged with developing plans to fight the epidemic.

"The prescription opioid and heroin epidemics are driven by biological, psychological, and social problems that require multi-dimensional solutions," said Connolly. "We must never forget the human cost of these epidemics. We must win."



# BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 6

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

**Candidate Forum.** 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold an in-person forum 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](http://www.vote411.org).

## THURSDAY/OCT. 26

**Business Lecture.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dollars and Sense discussion focuses on businesses. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov) for more.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Reston District Station, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Drop off unused or expired medications at a Fairfax County Police district station. Pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles. Safe disposal of unused or expired medications prevents drug abuse and misuse, accidental poisoning, and protects the environment. Disposal is free, convenient, confidential, and safe. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/) or [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html) for more.

## NOV. 16-17

**Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive.** To support this year's Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive, confirm your donation commitment by Oct. 31 at [www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives](http://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives). Call 571-323-9569 or [nate.king@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:nate.king@cornerstonesva.org).

## DEADLINE NOV. 3

**Cornerstones of Community Award.** Nominations are due for the Cornerstones of Our Community – Best of Reston Awards. Nomination applications can be found at [www.cornerstonesva.org/BOR](http://www.cornerstonesva.org/BOR). Finalist selections and notifications will be completed by early January 2018. Visit [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org) for more.

## 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](http://www.capitalfranchiseshow.com)

## TUESDAY/NOV. 7

**RSVP Northern Virginia Orientation.** 1:30 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library, Meeting Room 1, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Orientation for RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), a volunteer network for people 55 and older and provides individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Free outdoor parking is located in front of the library. Visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

## DEADLINE NOV. 17

**Gifts for Kids Drive.** Visit [www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives](http://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives) by November 17<sup>th</sup> to request a child's personalized wish list (average \$60-\$75 per child). Call 571-323-9569 or [nate.king@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:nate.king@cornerstonesva.org).

## 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 learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

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## Weakened Wherewithal



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Say that three times quickly. Heck, say it one-time slowly. And then welcome to my whirled: the world of cancer treatment and survival. A 'whirled' in which, eight years and nearly eight months post diagnosis, I continue to live, breathe and write.

Occasionally it happens, as it is happening now, that some of the most excruciating demands of being a cancer patient, occur simultaneously – or a reasonable facsimile thereof. For me that means 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, chemotherapy infusion, CT Scan and then the appointment with my oncologist to discuss all the results; occurring over 13 days – with intermittent days off for good behavior.

Typically; meaning every minute, every hour, every day, every week, etc., maybe not every second, I am thinking about cancer; though I wouldn't say I'm preoccupied (others might). And of course, it's certainly understandable and reasonable to do so when every day over a fortnight, you are waiting – as we say in the sales world – "for the other shoe to drop."

Having endured this cycle over the last eight and a half years with varying regularity, I can honestly say that whatever symptoms have manifested themselves – or not – have never provided any consistent assurance that my life/life expectancy had not changed for the worse. It's not until the appointment with my oncologist occurs – or sooner if he emails me the scan results, that I learn the facts of my case.

All of that being said, as my friend Frank has often said to me: "You're in pretty good shape for the shape you're in." Don't I know it.

However, yes there's always a 'however' in the cancer-patient-surviving-against-all-odds 'whirled,' there are no guarantees. In fact, there are only two guarantees: death and taxes. The former is way too close for comfort and the latter, I'm already taxed to the hilt, emotionally. Somehow, I have to get through because "the alternative is gloomy" to quote Dr. Mobley, the doctor in Miles City who treated Augustus McCray in the epic miniseries, "Lonesome Dove." And so I try not to be gloomy.

However, there's that word again, circumstances/schedules randomly bring down the weight – and wait of my 'whirled.' These 13 days can never pass quickly enough. But that presumes a good result, which one would want to know as soon as possible. But what of a bad result, leading to an exponential increase in anxiety – and fear, ultimately leading to a treatment unknown. That I might not want to know so soon. Not that not knowing serves any point or helps coordinate the next treatment plan, I'm more afraid of hearing something I haven't heard much of since February 2009. To quote my late mother quoting somebody: "No one gets out of this life alive."

That of course is the point of this column, and the effect of having all this cancer stuff happen at the same time. I can take it, generally; as my late father used to say: "KB, I have confidence in you. You have broad shoulders." Nevertheless, I worry about the figurative straw breaking my emotional back. Cancer can do that. It did it to my mother-in-law, Peggy, where over a few days the situation went from bad to worse to finally, the worst.

Somehow, I have to compartmentalize all this negative energy and focus on the positive. And that positive turns out to be an early email from my oncologist basically saying that my lung cancer remains stable. Now we can go to my appointment on Monday "unencumbered," to once gain quote my late father. The pressure is semi off. Talk about relief.

Now maybe I can relax and try not to think about my next infusion, my next scan and my next appointment with the oncologist. There's no harm in trying, right?

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



# Downtown Redevelopment Attracts Standing-room Audience

Town Manager outlines the agreement and provides answers to questions from the public.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

The Town of Herndon hosted a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m., in the Herndon Council Chambers Building at 765 Lynn Street to discuss the Proposed Comprehensive Agreement between Herndon and Comstock.

Herndon Town Manager Bill Ashton outlined information and answered questions from the public on the Proposed Comprehensive Agreement. In his opening remarks, Ashton said he wanted the public to be, "As informed as possible when they walk out this door tonight."

Present at the meeting were members of the town's negotiating team: Dana Singer, director of Public Works; Jennie Tripoli, director of Finance; Dennis Holste, Economic Development manager; Lisa Gilleran, director of Community Development; Len Wales, consultant; and Tom Folk, attorney with Reed Smith.

Turning his attention to the project's key goals, Ashton said while the project had to be economically viable for both the town and Comstock Partners, LLC, the agreement had to protect the town from risks and observe legal constraints. The big issue Ashton conceded was to minimize disruption, referencing transitional parking and ArtSpace. Ashton affirmed that the Town must obtain fair value for the property conveyed and the town contribution (\$3.6 million), and the agreement must afford a reasonable process for the town to work with a private partner. Given Town Council adoption of the Proposed Comprehensive Agreement at the Herndon Town Council Meeting on Oct. 24, Ashton told those at the Town Hall meeting Comstock expected to break ground in early in 2019 with project completion in 2021.

**IN THE INFORMATIONAL SEGMENT** of the meeting, Ashton presented highlights of the agreement. He said that Comstock proposed to redevelop land in Herndon's downtown by constructing approximately 281 residential apartments, 17,600 square feet of retail space, an 18,000-square-foot Arts Center, an Arts Walk, and a 761-space parking garage with 1 1/2 stories below grade. At the closing stage, Ashton emphasized specific conditions were required. "We are looking for a vibrant, active, first class, downtown Town Center," Ashton said. He added that the project must be economically viable for both parties to operate.

As for potential delays, there could be, Ashton said, "A market pause of up to two years if the economic conditions are not right for them to move forward."

"I was at first, taken aback by it," Ashton said. After talking with other members of the negotiating team, Ashton said he became "a fan of the market delay." He explained, "If the economic conditions are not there, why do we want them to go through with something they're not going to be able



At the Town Hall Meeting on the Proposed Agreement for Downtown Redevelopment, Herndon Town Manager Bill Ashton said, "We are looking for a vibrant, active, first class, downtown Town Center."



Dennis Holste, Herndon Economic Development Manager handed the microphone to Jabar Baig for his question at the standing-room-only Downtown Redevelopment Town Hall Meeting.

to put people into? That would be insane."

Ashton spoke at length about the transitional parking plan. "Comstock is acutely aware of how important parking is to the community," said Ashton. He reiterated that Comstock and the town would work together on the details. Ashton stressed there would be 162 shared spaces available 24-hours a day and be marked by signage. Ashton stressed that the transitional parking could be located offsite at various locations in the downtown. "Piecemeal... over a couple of lots," he said. Ashton said, "There will be no charge because public shared parking is free parking. We are not Reston."

Speaking about the relocation of ArtSpace Herndon and the new arts center, Ashton

said that the Town and Comstock would identify a temporary location. "We've put in a budget allowance of \$250,000 to relocate ArtSpace," he said. "One of the common questions we get is that we are building an arts center. What are we getting?" Ashton explained Comstock would deliver to the town the exterior of a building that is suitable for an arts center, and the town is responsible for the interior design and build-out. The town though has put an option in the agreement for Comstock to possibly design the interior and build it out but for an additional fee.

As for the parking garage, Ashton said the town would own it with "761 spaces, of which 339 are designated for public parking." Breaking it down even further, as part

of the 339 spaces, 220 parking spaces will be public shared, 60 for the Arts Center, and 59 for new retail. "All in the same pool. It will operate as one public shared parking entity under the town." All remaining spaces will be for residential use.

As for the schedule, Ashton reported it would be a year between signing the agreement and turning dirt and a 20-month construction bill.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, citizens would have the opportunity to provide opinions at the public hearing held during the regular Town Council Meeting.

**OPENING THE FLOOR** to questions, Ashton stressed that the current town meeting was for questions only, not comments. Many citizens requested clarification on parking, the project construction including assurance that there would be adherence to the town's Heritage Preservation Review (HPRB) and Architectural Review Board (ARB) standards for project design, as well as the need for a dedicated Project Manager hired by the Town.

Ashton reiterated that Comstock was "acutely aware of how important parking is to this community." As for project design, Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development explained that Comstock's initial designs seek to represent the period from the late 1800s through 1940, "a very traditional look," all designs would be subject to Herndon's HPRB and ARB approvals, and meet code.

Many citizens asked about traffic mitigation and calming, noting Elden Street in particular. Dana Singer, Director of Public Works, said current and future work on Elden and Station Streets would result in left turn lanes and traffic would be pushed. Parking on Center was questioned. Would the new apartment owners seek to park outside their units on Center Street, as the street could be more convenient to them rather than the garage? Ashton assured the individual that based on the spirit of where the Town has been with Comstock, he was reasonably confident Comstock would work with the Town on parking.

Finally, the question of the total cost of the project; was it \$9.4 million and was this worth it? Ashton answered the cost to purchase the land in 2015 was \$5.8 million. Along with the \$3.6 million due, of which \$500,000 was for parking, \$500,000 for remediation, \$250,000 for the arts center relocation, and \$100,000 for culvert repair, the total was \$9.4 million.

Asked if the dollars to be spent were worth it, Ashton said the Town had performed multiple feasibility studies and in the case of structured parking "yes;" the 330 parking spaces, "yes;" and the Arts Walk and the arts unit, "yes; it is worth it." Ashton reported there would be a tax base to draw upon, real estate taxes, and if a restaurant went in, meals tax revenue. Ashton said, "We are estimating \$300,000 (annually) back to the town (in taxes) once it is complete."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION