

Reston CONNECTION

Sam Martin, sous-chef at Clydes of Reston helps Shannon Johnson, bookkeeper at Clydes of Reston unload brats for the attendees at the Taste of Fall Festival in Reston Town Center Saturday, Oct. 7.

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PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

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Washington West Film Festival Returns to Reston

The Washington West Film Festival, presented by Boeing, operates on the premise that “Story Can Change the World” and compels itself each year to extend the power of story by challenging audiences to engage. That effort begins with ticket purchases because Washington West, in turn, donates all box office proceeds to, and partners with, organizations and causes that are making a difference.

“Most certainly, story can change the world, but that is only when it is propelled by the imagination, inspiration, and sustained commitment of organizations and people that are making a difference,” said Washington West Founder Brad Russell. “With the three charitable partners our board has selected for 2017, we see that type of inspiration and sustained commitment.”

Visitors to Washington West not only are treated to more than 56 films and a world-class, overall experience, their attendance likewise will have a tangible impact on these three organizations:

Opening Night Features

❖ The Opening Night Red Carpet Ceremony at BowTie Cinemas, Reston will take place from 6-6:25 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26 and lead into the world premiere of “Corridor Four,” a documentary that challenges an image of the American hero in a film that chronicles the experiences of a 9/11 first responder.

❖ The Opening Night Red Carpet Ceremony will immediately be followed by a press champagne toast from 6:30-6:45 p.m. (prior to the screening).

❖ The cast and crew from “Corridor Four,” including Director/Writer Stephen Tringali and Producer/Writer Maria Bissell will be available for a Q&A immediately following the screening of the film.

❖ The Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture, also known as Arcadia Farms, was established in 2010 to improve the health of the community, support the viability of local farmers, and preserve the environment for future generations. Learn more at www.arcadiafood.org.

❖ Kids in the Spotlight, Inc. (KITS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in May 2009. Its program trains youth in foster care programs and other underserved youth to create, write, cast, and star in their own short films. Learn more at www.kitsinc.org.

❖ The Robert Duvall Children’s Fund (RDCF) is a 501 c(3), chari-

table organization committed to providing for the welfare, health, education, and relief of children and their families who are poor, distressed, or underprivileged. Learn more at www.robertduvallfund.com. Washington West released a robust schedule of 56 films that will anchor its six-day, October experience that will bring a substantial presence to Arlington, for the first time, to supplement the festival’s traditional anchor location of Reston. Ticket bundles and Fest Experience Packages for the Oct. 25-30 event, along with a full list of films, organized by date, location, and category are available at www.wvfilmfest.com.

Franchise Fair Explores ‘Being Your Own Boss’

FranNet of Virginia’s Capital Area Franchise Fair, the annual learning event held in partnership with the Community Business Partnership, provides help and education for entrepreneurs interested in exploring franchise ownership options that best fit their financial, professional and personal goals. Experts, lenders and a dozen franchisors from various industries will discuss: the best franchise fit, trends, the franchise business model, local regulations, and funding a franchise. FranNet of Virginia is a franchise matchmaking service that provides educational seminars and free individual counseling to entrepreneurs through SCORE and the Virginia Small Business Development Centers; private employers; career counseling agencies; government agencies; and local military bases. The fair will be held on Monday, Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston.

Tickets cost \$35 (\$49 at the door). Register at www.capitalfranchiseshow.com. For questions, contact Heather Rosen at 703-291-0939 or hrosen@frannet.com.

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.

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.

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.

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.




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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

Northern 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).

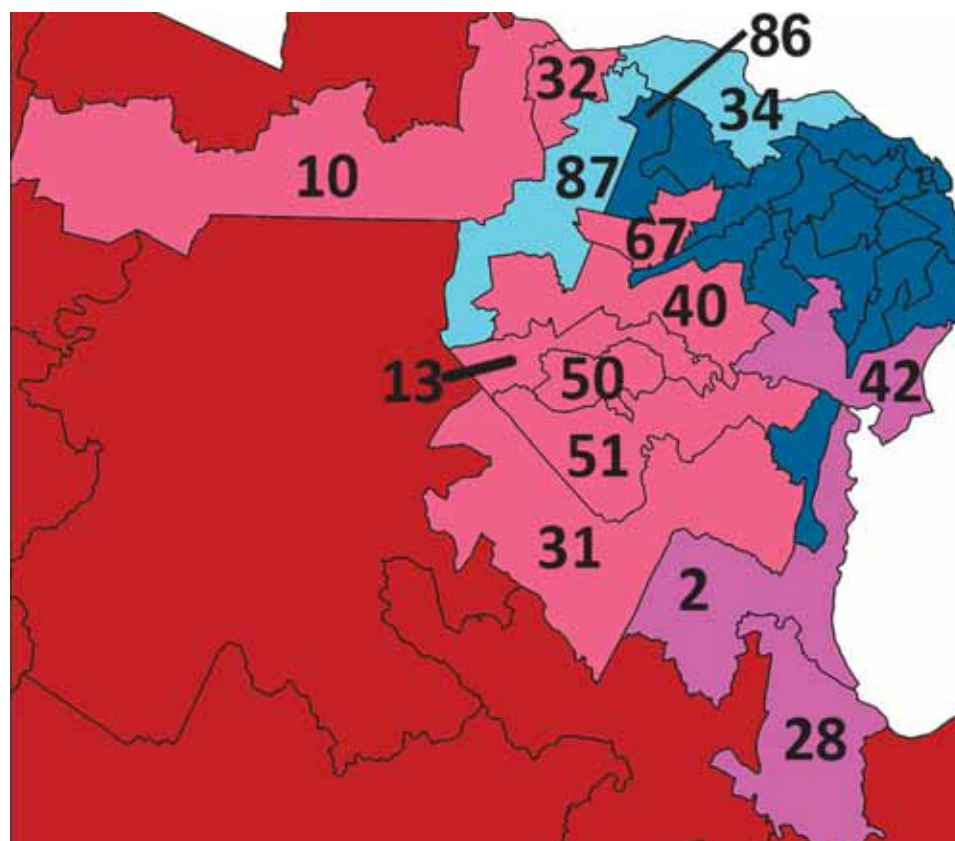
The decision of longtime Del. David Albo (R-42) to step down from public life after more than 20 years in office has created a vacuum that Democrats are eager to fill. Former Labor Department deputy administrator Kathy Tran emerged from a primary back in June, and she's been running hard against Republican 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

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CENTER FOR POLITICS



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

The 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

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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

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.

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

identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to suffice the identification requirement.

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.

Fairfax County Office of Elections

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

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at 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.

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.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Reston
CONNECTION

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Staycation II

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

The strong positive response to my recent Staycation column caused me to think that I should write another one with travel suggestions for a different part of the Commonwealth. With the first column we went south through the beautiful Piedmont of Virginia. For this trip I suggest that we go further west on I-66 to the Shenandoah Valley. Before turning south you might want to consider going north to Winchester on I-81 particularly during apple picking season.

Also north is the wonderful Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (www.themsv.org) with its permanent exhibits as well as special shows. Next door to the Museum is Historic Rosemont Manor, for many years the home of former governor and senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. whose machine ran Virginia politics for decades. It has limited lodging available to the public but can be rented for special events. Also in Winchester is the home of Patsy Cline, the queen of country music, which is open to the public.

There are many civil war sites in the Valley. A Civil War Trails map is available at www.civilwartraveler.com/EAST/VA/va-valley. You can also head south at Front Royal until you come to the entrance to the Skyline Drive. The views are beautiful; in the first segment you can see seven bends of the Shenandoah River. The Drive gets crowded during the fall foliage season, but the beauty of the drive makes it all worthwhile.

If you have not been to a natural cavern, get off the Skyline Drive at Route 11 heading west to Luray.

Most people agree that the natural beauty of the Luray Caverns cannot be beaten. Luray is in Page County where I grew up as a youngster. Head further west on Route 211 until you get to I-81 that runs down the center of the Valley. For a more scenic drive consider going south on Route 11. It is a little narrower with slower speed limits, but remember — on a staycation we take our time to enjoy the sights.

The campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg is beautiful, especially the early limestone buildings. Stop on Court Square in town and have lunch at Capitol Ale House. Further south to Staunton a recommended stop is the American Frontier Culture Museum, an outdoor museum with homes from the seventeenth century relocated from England, Ireland, Germany and other countries to show the kind of housing the early settlers had. If you need a meal, stop at Mrs. Rowe's (www.mrsrowes.net). You will think you are back in the 1960's. A slice of pie is a must, and you can buy Mrs. Rowe's pie cookbook.

We have about reached our limits for a one-day trip, so we can head home. It will add to the time of your trip, but if you go east on Route 64 you can pick up the Skyline Drive at Afton Mountain. Heading north you can eat at Big Meadows Lodge or spend the night at Skyland Lodge where I worked in the summers during high school.

If you want, we can plan a longer trip where we go to beautiful Abingdon, home of the Barter Theater or further west of the Crooked Road of Country Music (www.virginia.org/Listings/TheArts/CrookedRoadVirginiasHeritageMusicTrail). I have traveled around Virginia all my life and never get bored with it. Glad to have you along.

Reston Farmers Market Open thru Dec. 9

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

That's right, the last day of the Reston Farmers Market 2017 season is Dec. 9. Imagine, when we opened the RFM with the help of Founder Robert Simon and Del. Ken Plum on May 9, 1998, we started with just 12 farmers and our first season concluded on Halloween (Oct. 31, 1998). This year, the Market opened April 29 and will close on Dec. 9. Our 20th season will be a full seven weeks longer than our first year!

What has changed over these first 20 years to enable NoVA's top-rated farmers market sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority to extend its season by so much? Fran and I, the co-Managers of the Market, think the principal reasons are: 1) improved practices, technologies and varieties used by farmers; 2) diversification of varieties grown and products in the market; 3) a warming climate making for a longer growing season in the region serving the market — that is, within 125 miles of Reston; and, 4) demand by RFM shoppers for more products longer.

Farmers now use hoop houses which enable them to plant earlier and harvest later in the year. New varieties have shorter growing seasons and, instead of planting seeds for a given product all at one time, they might plant a few rows every couple of weeks, for example. Thus, corn which used to be available only in July and August now appears in late June and was still available in the market until Oct. 21 this year!

We have added new products to the list of eligibles to be sold in Fairfax County markets. For example, meat, seafood, and dairy products — including milk, ice cream and cheeses — are available year round and were not sold in County markets back in 1998. Also, we've added some prepared foods, which are available both earlier and later in the year. And, yes, average temperatures have risen slightly early and late in the season — our piece of climate change perhaps!

Lastly, shoppers are pressing us to extend our season, and producers are increasingly able and anxious to meet that demand. Add it all up and when you come to the Reston Farmers Market on our last day, Dec. 9, you're likely to find 17 vendors with a selection of veggies and fruits, as well as a wide array of meats, seafood, dairy products, and baked goods among other things!

In the meantime, this Saturday (Oct. 28) not only will the Market have its usual amazing array of home-grown and prepared products, but there will also be special activities and fun for the whole family — music, a guest chef's cooking demo, pumpkin painting and games for the kids, and a special raffle.

In addition, there will be a brief presentation by Anthem of an impressive \$\$ contribution to CORNERSTONES for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enabling more lower income beneficiaries to purchase fresh, nutritious locally grown foods for their families at the Market.

We hope you'll join us this Saturday, and every Saturday morning until the Reston Farmers Market closes on Dec. 9. For more complete info about the Market, go to www.restonfarmersmarket.com.

Defendant Accused of Murder Gets New Legal Representation

BY FALLON
FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION



**Darwin
Martinez
Torres, 22.**

The public defender representing Darwin Martinez Torres who has been charged and indicted in the murder of Muslim teen Nabra Hassanen, 17, of Reston, was excused from the commonwealth's criminal trial by the Fairfax County Circuit Court on Thursday, Oct. 19.

After the original second-degree murder charge was elevated to capital murder, Torres' former lawyer, Dawn Butorac, the chief public defender with the Fairfax County Public Defender's Office, asked the court to be excused. Chief Judge Bruce White granted the motion on the grounds that criminal defendants have the right to effective counsel.

Instead, legal representation with experience in capital murder trials will be provided to Torres by the Capital Defender Offices of the Indigent Defense Commission.

"He will get a group of lawyers who are qualified," said Raymond Morrogh, the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney, who is prosecuting the case and pursuing the death penalty.

Torres, who is a citizen of El Salvador living in Sterling without legal permission, was originally arrested on a second-de-

gree murder charge in June, which means the alleged murder was not treated as premeditated.

However, the charge was elevated past first-degree murder, which is the willful, deliberate and premeditated killing of any person, to capital murder, which — in this case — is the willful, deliberate and premeditated killing of any person in the commission of abduction, rape and sexual assault.

On Monday, Oct. 16, a Fairfax County grand jury indicted Torres on eight separate counts of capital murder, rape, sexual assault and abduction.

Torres "did feloniously, willfully, deliberately and with premeditation kill and murder Nabra Hassanen," the indictment said.

"The penalties on the four capital murder charges are either life or death," Morrogh told the Connection via email. "The penalties on the other charges are as follows: rape is from five years to life; abduction with the intent to defile is from 20 years to life; and on each of the two counts of animate object penetration the penalty is five years to life."

The next hearing for the case will be at the Fairfax County Circuit Court at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 17. A trial date will be discussed during this hearing.

Man Charged with Luring Victim with Job Ad, Sexual Assault

Imtiaz Rauf, 44, of Gainesville, who is a registered sex offender, was charged with sexual battery for allegedly assaulting a woman who thought she was meeting him in Reston for a job interview, according to the Fairfax County Police Department.

A preliminary investigation revealed Rauf allegedly placed an ad on Craigslist for the position of administrative assistant. When the victim arrived at an office building at 12005 Sunrise Valley Drive for an interview, she was sexually assaulted, according to the FCPD.

The department is investigating other similar reports and additional charges may be forthcoming. Rauf is being held at the Adult Detention Center in Fairfax without bond as detectives look into



Imtiaz Rauf

other ads police believe to be placed by him, according to the FCPD.

Rauf initially registered with the Virginia State Police Sex Offender Registry on July 6, 2011, after being convicted in Maryland on

Feb. 14, 2011, for sexual solicitation of a minor by the Montgomery County Circuit Court, according to the Virginia State Police.

The FCPD encourages victims who may have answered such ads to call Detective T. Horton at 703-246-7800. The department also encourages anyone with information on this case or other incidents involving Rauf to contact police at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, or by texting text-a-tip to CRIMES (274637) and starting a message with "TIP187."

— FALLON FORBUSH

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at 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/.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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/ 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.

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.



Photo Transfer Workshop. 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. \$45/\$55. Visit 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/.

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.

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, call 703-966-2111, or visit 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.

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.

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, call 703-966-2111, or visit 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.

adults. \$32 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. Visit 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. For questions, contact Heather Rosen at 703-291-0939 or 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, call 703-966-2111, or visit 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.

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, call 703-966-2111, or visit 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 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 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.

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, call 703-966-2111, or visit 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.

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.

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, call 703-966-2111, or visit 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.

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 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/ 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.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Pumpkin Carving Lessons. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd 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 for more.

NEWS

Reston: the Art of Community Reception and Film Screening

On Thursday, Oct. 26, Public Art Reston and Reston Historic Trust & Museum will co-host a reception to celebrate the exhibit "Reston: The Art of Community" at the Reston Historic Trust & Museum at 5:30-7 p.m. The reception will be followed by a screening of Peabody Award winning director Rebekah Wingert-Jabi's Fun, Beauty, Fantasy: Reston's Public Art and A Bird in the Hand – Patrick Dougherty's Sculptural Installation in Reston, VA (2015) from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center Lake Anne, followed by a short Q&A. This event is free and open to all and attendees are encouraged to RSVP ahead of time at rsvp@publicartreston.org.

"We are delighted to present this exhibition with one of our

close community partners, the Reston Historic Trust & Museum," says Anne Delaney, executive director of Public Art Reston.

"Thanks to Bob Simon's vision, Reston's Founder, public art has been an integral part of the community's landscape starting at Lake Anne Village Center in the 60s and then grew throughout Reston. Collaborating with community partners and developers, Public Art Reston has facilitated the delivery of more than 16 permanent and temporary public artworks in the last 10 years. "As this is our 10th Anniversary, we feel it is important to take this time to celebrate the accomplishments of the past 10 years, especially as we look forward to the future."

Take Control and Be Your Own Boss Learn how at the Capital Area Franchise Fair

Monday, November 6, 8:30am-12:30pm
Reston Association Conference Center
12001 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA

The Capital Area Franchise Fair is the annual learning event hosted by FranNet of Virginia with the SBA, SCORE and the Community Business Partnership.

Experts, lenders and franchisors from various industries will discuss: the best franchise fit, trends, the franchise business model, local regulations, franchise funding.

Tickets cost \$39 (\$49 at the door)
Register at www.capitalfranchiseshow.com
Questions call Heather Rosen at 703-291-0939



Whole House Remodeled Home Tour

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Founding Farmers Reston, LLC trading as Founding Farmers, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza Dr, Suite 100. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On & Off Premises, Mixed Beverage on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Daniel Simons, Manager. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Employment

Dream of being a small business coach?

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NEWS



Ashley Jackson, server at The Melting Pot in Reston shows off the chocolate-dipped strawberries and pretzels at the Taste of Fall Festival in Reston Town Center Saturday, Oct. 7.



Tim Bankert, a sous-chef with the Barcelona Wine Bar was making Paella, a traditional Spanish rice dish in a huge round cooking pan at the Taste of Fall Festival in Reston Town Center Saturday, Oct. 7.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Restonians Enjoy Taste of Fall

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Saturday was the Taste of Fall Festival in Reston Town Center. The festival that was to replace the traditional Oktoberfest activities centered around food and family fun. Many local businesses were also scattered throughout the food tents as the festival lasted two days Oct. 7 to 8.

The event was sponsored by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and tickets were used to purchase beer and food items from the various tents featuring area restaurants. The cuisine was a mixture of different cultures and restaurant styles as the booths competed for patron's taste buds.

Tim Bankert, a sous-chef with the Barcelona Wine Bar was making Paella, a traditional Spanish rice dish in a huge round cooking pan. He has been cooking for 13 years.

"I think it's great for the community to help get our name out there. I cook at a Spanish tapas restaurant. We regularly serve small, sharable plates," said Bankert.

Sydney Anderson, volunteer with the Reston Serenity Smiles was also present with dentist, Hoda Kazemifar, a McLean resident. "The festival is awesome, we come to this one and a Taste of Reston every year. We get to meet lots of people and take part in the community," she said.

Sam Martin, sous-chef at Clydes of Reston was making German-style bratwurst on an open charcoal grill. "Schnitzel and pork are the most popular items so far," he said. "We are also serving brats, beer braised sauerkraut, spätzle and pork schnitzel with mushroom gravy. For dessert there is oatmeal pie with whipped cream." Even organic restaurants like Green Fare were at the festival, suggesting healthier options to customers.

Pericles Silva, manager of Green Fare in Herndon,



Claire Williams drizzles cheese dip at a Tavern 64's booth at the Taste of Fall Festival in Reston Town Center.

a certified organic restaurant was more than pleased to comment on the festival as this was his seventh year attending.

"They changed the name from Oktoberfest, but it's great. We get a lot of families with kids, and it's not only about drinking and food it's about enjoying the fall. It's a beautiful day, and the best one for this festival in seven years!" he said.

"The taste of the fall festival is a great way to taste everything Reston has to offer this time of the year. Great people work the event, it's a great time and it's a good opportunity to give Reston Town Center a little more publicity as well," said Steve Webb, bartender at Craft House at Reston Town Center.

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.

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 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/ or 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. Call 571-323-9569 or 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. Finalist selections and notifications will be completed by early January 2018. Visit 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

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.

DEADLINE NOV. 17

Gifts for Kids Drive. Visit www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives by November 17th to request a child's personalized wish list (average \$60-\$75 per child). Call 571-323-9569 or 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.

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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.

Superintendent Embarks on Q-and-A Tour

Superintendent Scott Brabrand hosted a “community conversation” at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Public Schools’ new superintendent is taking questions from the county’s community of teachers, parents and its more than 189,000 students this fall.

Superintendent Scott Brabrand hosted a “community conversation” meeting at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston on Wednesday night, Oct. 18. Parents, teachers, students and community members were invited to attend and ask him questions about the 40 schools in the Herndon, Langley, Madison, Oakton and South Lakes high school pyramids that comprise Region 1 of the FCPS system, and the programs and services the schools provide those 38,000 students.

“Sometimes, in my experience, some of the issues that bubble up to the top happen because we haven’t built the relationships, we haven’t established the connections between school and community that we need to be successful,” Brabrand said during the meeting.

Many of the region’s principals, teachers, students and parents attended the meeting in the middle school’s lecture hall to fire their burning questions at the new superintendent.

Douglas Tyson, assistant superintendent for Region 1, introduced the superintendent, Region 1 principals and the FCPS Board members who came to the meeting: Karen Keys-Gamarra, member-at-large; Jane Strauss, chair and Dranesville District representative; and Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill District representative.

When Brabrand got up to speak, he boiled his goals down into three topics: excellence, equity and effectiveness.

Excellence and Equity

“Many of our high schools are outperforming the international PISA [Programme for International Student Assessment] average ... most of our schools are outperforming kids across the world,” Brabrand said. “We have some that are a little bit lower, but the truth is in those schools, it’s not really all students, it’s smaller pockets of students who are struggling.”

More than 52,000, or 28 percent of the total population, of FCPS students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals; more than 28,000, or 17 percent of the total population, receive English for speakers of other



Parents Basil (center) and Elizabeth Sakati of Reston talk to FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand (left) about which high school their two children will eventually attend and if they have options to select other high schools in their region. Their children, 11- and 12-year-olds, attend Buzz Aldrin Elementary School in Reston, and will eventually feed into Herndon High School when they finish middle school.

Brabrand’s Curriculum Vitae

The Fairfax County School Board hired Scott Brabrand in June, pulling him away from working as superintendent of the Lynchburg City Schools. He previously worked for the FCPS system in various roles, including assistant superintendent, principal of Fairfax High School, assistant principal, associate principal and teacher. Prior to this, he volunteered at FCPS and worked as an assistant manager for Bell Atlantic.

Brabrand was selected for the job after the FCPS Board hired a nationwide search firm — Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates — and received input from the community. A committee of 19 staff and community members interviewed semi-finalists and provided feedback to the board.

Brabrand earned a Bachelor of Science degree while studying international economics and foreign service from Georgetown University in 1990 and a master’s degree in education from the George Washington University. He finished a doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy from Virginia Tech in 2003.

languages (ESOL) services; and more than 25,000, or 13 percent of the total population, receive special education services, according to FCPS. Demographically, 40 percent of students are white, 25 percent are Hispanic, 19 percent are Asian American, 10 percent are black, and 5 percent are multiracial, according to FCPS.

In the name of excellence and equity, he committed to bringing test scores up for all students.

“Every time I’ve focused on equity — when I was a principal at Fairfax High School, when I was in Cluster 4 as an assistant [superintendent], and when I was a superintendent in Lynchburg — outcomes for all kids went up; not just some kids, all kids,” he said. “And we’re going to work on that journey in the weeks and months and years ahead.”

“We’re going to take an equity journey together,” Brabrand said.



Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Scott Brabrand

But he also cautioned the overreliance on test scores and pressure put on students.

His 14-year-old identical twin sons, “feel a difference in the pressure that is in the school system,” he said. “We want high expectations ... but perfection is an unrealistic expectation for children. And to be honest, I don’t know that I’ve seen perfection anywhere in anybody at any time. We can aspire to it, and we should aspire to it, but we need to leave a little room for the human condition; and I want to help us do that in the years ahead as superintendent.”

Effectiveness

Touching on effectiveness, Brabrand talked about prioritizing time and resources to accomplish the goals of the school board, including a budget priority: paying teach-

ers more.

“We know we only have limited resources,” he said. “My budget is going to focus on our core priority, which has to be paying our teachers market-driven salaries ... and all of our support employees getting the compensation they deserve.”

This is because Brabrand wants to attract the best teachers.

“The No. 1 core principle that parents are looking for is an outstanding teacher in the classroom,” he said. “We need to be ... the Walt Disney World for teachers.”

In order to establish this culture, teachers have to afford to live in the county, he reasoned.

“We’ve also got to realize the standard of living here requires a market-based salary and supports to keep our teachers here,” he said.

The school system has been strapped for cash in recent budget cycles, with costs only going up as years progress.

FCPS is the third largest employer in Virginia, with approximately 27,500 employees, including 24,600 full-time staff positions, more than 92 percent of which are school-based, according to FCPS.

“We need to be the superstar school system when it comes to the support of our benefits and salary for teachers,” Brabrand said. “Our salary for teachers is below the market across a wide swath of our employees, and we’ve got to get to the market average at least. And then we’ve got to have the best working conditions, the best benefits, the best retirement to help support to be the cherry on top of the sundae; to get people here and keep them here.”

The FCPS considered implementing \$4.7 million in reductions to its pension system by June in time for the fiscal year 2018 budget. These included lowering the interest crediting rate on all ERFC member accounts from 5 percent to 4 percent. The FCPS considered more changes for new or nonvested ERFC members, including instituting a minimum retirement age of 55; increasing the period for calculating the fi-

nal average salary from three years to five years; and changing the cost-of-living adjustment to equal 100 percent of the Consumer Price Index with a cap of 4 percent.

Brabrand was silent on whether more changes should be implemented to the pension system, but he emphasized his desire to maintain its current levels.

“I’ve only been here three months, I’m not in a position yet to say anything more to the pension changes that have been made,” he said.

“We need to pay our teachers more, but we need to still be sure we maintain the supporting packages that help keep and retain teachers,” he added. “I think teachers come first because of the salary but they’re going to stay based on a strong benefits package and a retirement package.”

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION