

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Joe Lorusso, 27, of Oak Hill places first in the Herndon Turkey Trot with a time of 17:09.

Runners and Walkers Take On Herndon's Turkey Trot 5K

NEWS, PAGE 9

Saying Thank You To the Community

NEWS, PAGE 6

East Spring Street Widening Discussed

NEWS, PAGE 2

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

NOVEMBER 22-28, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2017, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2018, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,100 to \$4,150¹
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$11,685 to \$13,420
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,240 to \$1,260¹
4. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.81 to \$2.94 per 1,000 gallons of water
5. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$44 to \$45
6. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge
7. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$35 to \$36

¹ Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$178.7 million budget² for calendar year 2018. Revenues are expected to be \$178.7 million in 2018. Water sales are expected to provide \$155.8 million. Approximately \$22.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2017	2018
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 54,270	\$ 55,983
Power and Utilities	10,468	10,670
Chemicals	6,846	7,732
Purchased Water	7,677	6,540
Supplies and Materials	4,850	5,102
Insurance	1,186	1,200
Fuel	595	655
Postage	611	614
Contractual Services	11,252	11,610
Professional Services	990	1,025
Other	2,280	2,503
Sub-Total	101,025	103,634
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,991)	(10,248)
Total	\$ 91,034	\$ 93,386

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:	
Debt Payment	\$42,981,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,087,000

² Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. A copy of the proposed budget can be found at www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

News

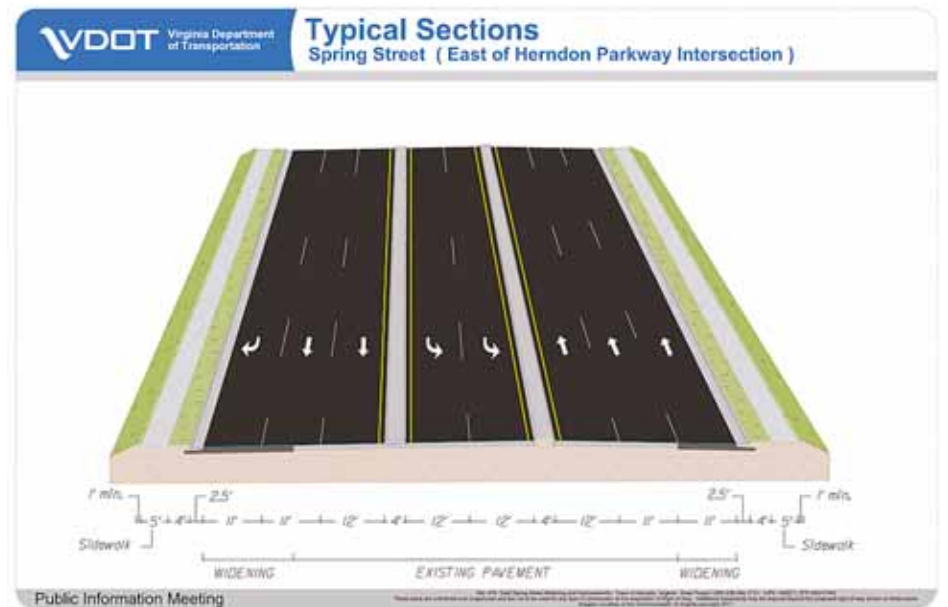


IMAGE COURTESY OF VDOT

The proposed VDOT Spring Street Widening, east of Herndon Parkway intersection, shows one right-turn lane and two left-turn lanes for Spring Street's westbound traffic onto Herndon Parkway. With no option for Spring Street's westbound traffic to make a U-turn back onto Spring Street heading east to enter the Sunset Business Park, concern was raised about ease of entry and impact on businesses.

Street Widening Discussed

Public comments heard and questions answered.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Department of Transportation invited residents and drivers to a public information meeting on plans to widen East Spring Street in the Town of Herndon just west of Herndon Parkway to Fairfax County Parkway. The meeting was held in the Herndon Town Chambers, 765 Lynn St., on Monday, Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Concerned citizens stopped by to view the large-scale display maps and to talk one-on-one with VDOT and Town of Herndon staff.

According to VDOT's description, the project aims to improve safety, operations, and connectivity along East Spring Street. Improvements include widening the road from four to six lanes, providing additional turn lanes for vehicular traffic, adding sidewalks on both sides of East Spring Street and the east side of Herndon Parkway, and replacing the existing sidewalk on the west side of Herndon Parkway.

Additional improvements cited include adding a cycle track and a bike facility that combines the user experience of a separated path with on-street infrastructure of a conventional bike lane.

A couple of citizens expressed concern about changing the access to the Sunset Business Park off Spring Street, east of the Herndon Parkway intersection. For those traveling westbound on Spring Street and wanting to get into the Business Park, with no U-turn allowed in the proposed project description of the intersection, it appears drivers will have to turn left off Spring



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Former Herndon Town Councilmember, Richard Downer (forefront) asks for clarification by Gary Wilmouth from VDOT's Central Office in Richmond about the proposed East Spring Street Widening Project in the Town of Herndon.

Street onto Herndon Parkway, drive down Herndon Parkway and enter the business park from there.

The project is being funded with federal and state funding. Estimated project cost is \$10.5 million, including:

- ❖ Preliminary engineering costs: \$723,000
- ❖ Right of Way/Utility Relocation costs: \$4.2 million
- ❖ Construction costs: \$5.6 million.

Although the Public Information Meeting was held Nov. 13, the Comment Period does not end until Monday, Nov. 27, 2017. Input is encouraged. VDOT states in their Guide to Property Owners and Tenants that all information received at and after the hearing will carefully be reviewed by VDOT with decisions made to continue or modify the plan.

SEE STREET WIDENING, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

‘A Disaster for Northern Virginia’

Connolly holds roundtable on congressional tax plan.

BY ANDREA WORKER

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) says that he and his Democratic colleagues are more than willing to work in a bipartisan effort on meaningful tax form. “As a leader of the New Democrat Coalition, a group of pro-business Democrats, I have written on several occasions to Speaker Paul Ryan and Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady asking them to partner with us ... to simplify the tax code, create revenue ... and provide middle class tax relief.”

Speaking at a roundtable gathering that the congressman hosted at the offices of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) on Monday, Nov. 13, to discuss the consequences of the GOP tax plans, Connolly says those overtures have been rejected.

“Congress had a real opportunity to pursue neutral tax reform that would lower corporate tax rates and benefit the middle class,” Connolly expressed “deep disappointment” at the House and Senate bills being proposed, categorizing both as “shameful, corporate giveaways” that will have unprecedented and far-reaching negative effects on Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

Connolly reported that by using “dynamic scoring” – a method of analysis that includes the potential feedback effect certain tax cuts can have, and that he said Republicans often advocate “because it provides more generous deficit projections for tax cuts” — the proposals actually increase the country’s deficit to \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, “and somebody has to pay that bill.”

An assessment of the tax plans by Congress’ nonpartisan Joint Taxation Committee released on Monday, Nov. 20, seems to support the congressman’s concerns. The committee’s analysis projects that some 13.8 million moderate-income American households would actually see a tax increase as a result of the Senate plan by 2019. Households earning less than \$200,000 per year would face increases of \$100 to \$500. The tax liability rises even more for earners between \$75,000 and \$200,000. According to the analysis, tax increases would be felt by 21.4 million households by the year 2025.

Connolly likened the plans to previously failed “trickle-down” attempts at tax reform and economic stimulus.

“1981, 2001, 2003. The Reagan and Bush tax cuts. So disastrous that they had to enact tax increases in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1990” to raise the needed funds. “Then in the early 2000s, President George W.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) meets with local leaders to discuss the consequences of the proposed Senate and House GOP Tax Reform Bills. Connolly admitted from the start that he wasn’t there to “sing their praises.”



Bob Adamson, chairman of the board of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, views the proposed legislation as “unfair to homeowners,” and that they will have a negative “ripple effect” on the local economy and residents of the community.

Bush took the record surpluses of the Clinton era and created record deficits.” Connolly added that the trickle-down theory is based on “the hope and the prayer that such tax cuts will someday pay for themselves,” but that history has already proven “that assumption to be false.”

TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT of the proposed legislation on the Northern Virginia region, Connolly convened a group of local business leaders, economists and financial experts, as well as participants representing social service providers, persons with long-term medical and care needs, economists, parents of students with significant student debt, and seniors.

Connolly set the stage for the discussion with a few more facts and figures, although he cautioned that “we still haven’t seen the whole of either proposed legislation.”

* The plans either repeal or limit several tax breaks that are crucial to Northern Virginians, including medical and dental expense deductions, premiums for long-term care insurance, in-home and nursing home care, and mortgage interest deductions.

* The state and local income tax (SALT) deductions would be limited or even repealed. In Connolly’s 11th District, 50 percent of tax filers claim the SALT deduction,

with 75 percent of the claimants being in middle income tax brackets. The number of SALT claimants throughout Fairfax County is as high as 280,000 households.

* The plans call for the repeal of Estate Tax, which only applies to about the wealthiest 5,000 decedents each year, while cutting adoption tax credits and credits for small businesses that invest in accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities.

* According to the Tax Policy Center, after-tax income for the top 1 percent of earners would rise by about 2.6 percent by 2027, while those at the bottom 80 percent would see after-tax increase of between 0.0 percent and 0.6 percent.

After Connolly’s remarks, Bob Adamson, chairman of the board of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, was the first of the gathering to offer comments.

Representing some 12,000 Realtors in the region, Adamson stated that the NVAR “wants to be part of the solution,” but finds the proposed legislation to be “unfair to homeowners,” disproportionately placing the burden of “filling in the financial gaps” directly on them.

NVAR Chair-elect Lorraine Arora agreed, adding that “real estate bolsters the economy” with so many related jobs and services, and that any plan that suppresses

home buying will cause a “ripple effect of harm.”

The Realtors at the table also worried that the proposed tax reform will actually lower existing house values. NVAR CEO Ryan Conrad said that in the NoVa region, that decrease could be as much as \$30,000 lost in home equity.

ADDITIONALLY, THE REALTORS foresee a decrease in housing stock that is already an issue, and even see Fairfax County’s successes toward ending and preventing homelessness, slip into reverse, as developers are less able than ever to profitably build affordable housing.

Continuing the “ripple effect” theme, JoAnne Carter, managing director of PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, said that the proposals threaten the means by which municipalities, nonprofits and other businesses fund their services and investments in improvements and expansion.

“Eliminating Private Activity Bonds and causing cuts to ‘advance refinancing,’” said Carter is severely hampering the ability to finance the basics, like “schools, roads, hospitals, transportation, airports, sea ports, all of it.”

That in turn “increases the burden on the counties,” said Adamson, while potentially depleting their main source of revenue. For municipalities like Fairfax County, that are, in essence, only able to raise funds through property taxation, the choices are dauntingly few. Either raise those taxes significantly, or reduce expenditure on infrastructure and public and social services.

“And if we damage our AAA Bond rating,” added Carter, “it costs more for these municipalities and service providers to borrow.” According to Carter, Fairfax County could save between \$3-12 million when re-financing with a Triple A Bond rating. “Losing that could mean that public structures just don’t get built.”

Nancy Mercer, a licensed clinical social worker and the former executive director of the ARC of Northern Virginia, and Ridge Multop, an economist, former AARP Congressional Affairs and former House Budget Committee staffer, both discussed the impact the proposed tax bills could have on seniors, those with long-term care and/or medical issues, and those most in need and most vulnerable in the community.

Multop “put a face” on the discussion, speaking about an economist friend. “He’s 85 years old, on a fixed income, in assisted living. He looked at how these bills would impact him based on his 2016 tax filing and said it would raise his taxes by more than \$3,000. How do people like him cope with that?”

Eliminating tax deductions for medical expenses and long-term care would be harmful to seniors, Multop said, possibly forcing more into custodial care and placing an additional burden on municipalities

SEE ROUNDTABLE, PAGE 11

NEWS

Seasons, Holidays Change in Herndon

Department of Public Works rises to each occasion.

Seasons change and so do the street pole decorations in the Town of Herndon. During the week of Nov. 13, Herndon's Department of Public Works exchanged their American flags flown in observance of Veterans Day for winter wreaths.

According to Johnny Johnson, Department of Public Works, the crew installed and tested approximately 90 vintage-style wreaths, each with a red bow at the bottom and centering either replica red bells or white gas lanterns. Each wreath took 2-3 men to balance and hoist up to Johnson. After the crew left and the sun set, one by one the Elden Street wreaths turned on – from the Herndon Parkway intersection on its western end to Fairfax County Parkway to the east-marking the beginning of the town's holiday season."

— MERCIA HOBSON



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Making Ready for the Holidays – Johnny Johnson, Herndon Department of Public Works, tests one of the approximately 90 vintage-style holiday light decorations he and others at DPW installed on Elden Street in Herndon.

FREE
Admission & parking

Herndon Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Sunday December **3** 10^{AM} – 4^{PM}

Over 80 vendors. Unique gifts, holiday decorations and homemade items.

Herndon Community Center
814 Ferndale Ave. Herndon, VA 20170

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Herndon
PARKS & RECREATION

herndon-va.gov/events 703-787-7300

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Was \$999 / Now \$599
Was \$329 / Now \$199
Was \$799 / Now \$499
Was \$2,799 / Now \$1,699
Was \$999 / Now \$599
Was \$329 / Now \$199

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WEEK IN HERNDON

Herndon to 'Dress Up for the Holidays'

Town of Herndon residents are invited to deck the halls, hang wreaths, string lights – and nominate their own or their neighbors' homes for the annual "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" Neighborhood Decoration Contest, sponsored by the town's Cultivating Community Initiative.

The contest is open to all town residents. Nominations should be forwarded by Friday, Dec. 8, to information@herndon-va.gov or call 703-435-6800, ext 2084.

The judging panel will circulate throughout the town on Monday evening, Dec. 11, to determine contest winners. Judges will be looking for classical design, traditional themes, whimsical or creative decorations and more. Decorations on all nominated homes must be easily visible from the street.

Find more information at www.Herndon-va.gov/CultivatingCommunity.

Holiday Arts & Crafts Show Dec. 3

The Town of Herndon's 39th Annual Holiday Arts & Craft Show will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon.

More than 80 artisans and crafts people will exhibit and sell handmade work at this arts and crafts show sponsored by the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department.

Free admission and parking. Refreshments will be available for purchase. A variety of handcrafted items and fine art will

be on sale at the show including jewelry, Christmas ornaments, decorations, original artwork, photography, stained glass, and much more. Participants were chosen based on the quality, originality, and craftsmanship of their items. New this year, there will be a free children's hands-on art area. Gift wrapping available and donations will be accepted. Food and beverages will be on sale.

Visit www.herndon-va.gov/recreation.

Street Widening Discussed

FROM PAGE 2

VDOT directed that comments or concerns related to the proposed roadway widening and the proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements along East Spring Street and Herndon Parkway be postmarked by Nov. 27, 2017, and either mailed to Mr.

Hamid Misaghian, P.E., Virginia Department Of Transportation Northern Virginia District, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or emailed to meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov with "East Spring Street Widening" in the email subject. All comments are subject to public disclosure.



Santa Picture Day

Saturday December 2, 2017
8 AM to 2 PM

Holiday Treats and Refreshments for all.
Pamper your pets @ Posh Paws Boutique,
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Multiple Packages Available
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A portion of the proceeds is donated to local charities.

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RESTON TOWN CENTER
HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8 AM
Gingerbread Man Mile for Kids
Shops, restaurants, and ice skating open early

11 AM
27th Annual **RESTON HOLIDAY PARADE**
"Home Is Where the Heart Is"

12:30 - 4:30 PM
Visits and Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus
Mini-Train Rides

5 PM
Performance at Fountain Square

6 PM
Tree Lighting and Sing Along

6:30 - 10:00 PM
Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

WEEKENDS

SATURDAYS December 2, 9, 16, and 23
4 - 9 PM Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

SUNDAYS December 3, 10, 17
12 - 4 PM Mini-Train Rides

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER
Holiday Performances

NOVEMBER UNTIL MARCH
Ice Skating Pavilion - Open Daily

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Cigar Town
Crunch Fitness
Davelle Clothiers
Dawn Price Baby
Eyewear Gallery
Faber, Coe & Gregg Sundries
Francesca's Collections
Greater Reston Arts Center
Hyatt Regency Reston
Jos. A. Bank Clothiers
Jouvence/Aveda
Kendra Scott
L'Occitane
Lou Lou
Madewell
Mayflowers
Midtown Jewelers
PNC Bank
Potomac River Running
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PR at Partners
PR Barbers
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Big Bowl
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The Conservatory Lounge
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M&S Grill
Mon Ami Gabi
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Potbelly Sandwich Works
Starbucks Coffee
Tasting Room Wine Bar & Shop
Tavern64
Ted's Bulletin
Uncle Julio's
...and much more!

Saying Thank You to the Community

Northwest Federal Credit Union partners with NOVA Project GiveBack in Thanksgiving food distribution.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Northwest Federal Credit Union in Herndon partnered with NOVA Project GiveBack to provide food boxes for local families in need of assistance during the Thanksgiving holiday season. Twenty members of NWFCU and their families shared in Project GiveBack's mission of building community through service as they and other local organizations and businesses joined together at Gum Spring Community Center in Alexandria, Saturday morning, Nov. 18. Their goal? To give back to the local communities where they live and work. And make a difference.

Jeff Bentley is CEO of Northwest Federal Credit Union. Well before the trucks arrived Bentley stood ready and shared why he was there. "I am happy to volunteer along with my family and several other NWFCU employees and community members to assemble and deliver these meals. I am personally looking forward to delivering meals to families who live near our headquarters in Herndon, as this community has supported our organization for past 70 years...This is one way that I can give back and say, Thank you."

MEMBERS OF NWFCU would deliver 15 of the meals later that day to identified families in the Reston/Herndon community.

Harmonie Taddeo is Vice President of Marketing & Communications at NWFCU. She said that in celebration of NWFCU's 70th Anniversary, as act 62 of their 70 Acts of We in 2017, Northwest Federal had donated \$5,250 to provide 70 meals for families in need in Northern Virginia.

On Project Giveback's website, Ransom Miller, III, Founder/CEO of the 501(c) (3) national nonprofit community service organization, states its mission is to provide a vehicle for corporate firms and other organizations to give back to the communities where they work and live. Ransom explained they had set very aggressive goals for the year. The organization sought to deliver 2,000 boxes of food to families needing assistance throughout Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia.

Taddeo said Northwest Federal Credit Union was honored to partner with NOVA GiveBack. "This partnership allows us to live our WHY of serving and inspiring to transform lives and give back to the community that has supported us for 70 years."

Councilman John T. Chapman, City of Alexandria, spoke to the volunteers a few minutes after the trucks began arriving. He assured those present they were going to make a tremendous difference in lives of families, not only those of the grandparents and the parents but especially in the lives



Amber Gallmetzer of Northwest Federal Credit Union in Herndon and her daughter Brianna Runyon help pack sweet potatoes and oranges as part of the 8th Annual Northern Virginia Project Giveback Thanksgiving meals for families in need.



NWFCU employees along with their families and community members pose for a group photo before assembling Thanksgiving meals for those less fortunate. "This is one way the organization can say thank you to the community that has supported it for 70 years," said Harmonie Taddeo, Vice President of Marketing & Communications at NWFCU.

of the children. Chapman explained it is vital to rely on the help and support of the local communities.

"As the government tries to do what it can, efforts like this help ends meet. It takes an amazing effort to put this together," Chapman said.

Within minutes, the trucks arrived, filled with boxes of fresh produce, poultry, stuff-

ing, and canned good. All the fixings for a Thanksgiving Day meal with food leftover for additional meals.

Mike Kapher, CIO of NWFCU thanked Kia Davis, Project GiveBack's Fundraising chair and her team who worked so hard to coordinate the project and invited NWFCU to join beside them. "I hope this becomes an annual partnership and the work of Project



From left: Baljit Kaur and Amber Gallmetzer from Northwest Federal Credit Union in Herndon help assemble Thanksgiving meals and two weeks worth of food for local families in need. NWFCU partnered with Northern Virginia Project GiveBack for their 8th Annual Thanksgiving Meal assembly and delivery out of the Gum Springs Community Center in Alexandria.

PHOTOS BY
MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



Volunteers from NWFCU in Herndon and other businesses and organizations gathered under the leadership of Project GiveBack at the Gum Spring Community Center in Alexandria. They were there to unload hundreds of boxes of food, assemble the meal products, and deliver the repacked boxes as Thanksgiving meals to those in need.

GiveBack continues to expand to serve those in need," said Kapfer.

TO FIND OUT MORE about Project GiveBack and their various other programs, visit www.projectgiveback.org, and to learn more about programs offered by NWFCU and their 70 Acts of We, visit nwfcu.org.

**Lisa C. Merkel,
Mayor of
Herndon,
presents the
Good Neighbor
Award to
Roy Cooper.**



PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Roy Cooper Receives the Town of Herndon Good Neighbor Award

Cooper goes the extra mile to help others and improve the quality of life in his neighborhood.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Lisa C. Merkel, Mayor of Herndon, and the Town Council recognized Roy Cooper as the winner of the town's annual Good Neighbor Award during the Herndon Town Council Public Hearing held Tuesday, Nov. 14 in the Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn St. The Mayor and Town Council presented Cooper with the award and a commemorative plaque for his contributions and commitment to his neighbors and the community.

The award is part the many activities of the Town's Cultivating Community Initiative (CCI). Barbara Glakas, a Cultivating Community Initiative volunteer member addressed the Town Council and Cooper during the Public Hearing. Glakas told how Cooper's neighbors nominated him for the award and described him as "someone who helped anyone."

"They especially remember how you were so helpful to your neighbor, Lou, who recently passed away from ALS," Glakas said. "You mowed Lou's backyard and were always available to help Lou with tasks, large and small, including just spending time with him over a glass of wine. Your neighbors note that you are not only a great neighbor to your own complex on Lillian Chase, but also to your other adjacent neighbors at the

International Apartments and Herndon Middle School."

Glakas explained Cooper took care of the local grounds, cutting down dangerous tree limbs and killing poison ivy that could harm children as they play.

"Your neighbor's sentiments are summed up by the following statement, Glakas said. "Quote: Roy is a proud citizen of Herndon, and we're blessed to call him our neighbor and friend," she read from the nomination form.

After accepting the award, Cooper thanked the Town Council. Cooper said he was honored and humbled to receive the award, but also surprised. He said as a Mid-west farm boy, helping his neighbors came naturally. Cooper hoped word of the award would get out because, "Just doing the right thing with your neighbors, benefits the whole community."

For more information about the Cultivating Community Initiative, a program within the Town of Herndon made up of volunteers and town staff to enrich the quality of life in Herndon by building community spirit and encouraging neighborhood beautification visit www.herndon.va.gov.

The initiative's next two programs are the "Herndon Holiday Homes Tour" Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays," an exterior decorating contest with judging Monday evening, Dec. 11, 6-8 p.m.



Health & Senior Services Fair

Friday, December 1
9 AM - 2 PM

Healthcare and Services Providers:
Metropolitan Washington Ear • Reston Hospital Center • TAD Relocation Services • Integrated Neurology Services, PLLC • Genesis Rehab Services • HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Northern Virginia • Ch'i Bodywork Massage

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Cotton Collective Art. Through Dec. 2 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Exhibit called “The Fabric of Families Center Street Cotton Collective.” Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

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)

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

All-comers’ Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com.

Art Exhibit through Jan. 8 at Artsights, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. “Drag, Disney, Art Insights and Art Outsiders: The Art of Tennessee Loveless,” see the new collection by Tennessee Loveless including his retrospective book 10x10x10 and images from his projects. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

THROUGH DEC. 15

Toys for Tots . 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at National Realty, 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive. Weekdays from 9-4 and drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. Call 703-860-4600.

THROUGH NOV. 30

Sweats for Vets Drive. Not Your Average Joe’s is partnering with the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation in Reston to raise money to help area veterans. Mention the “Sweats for Vets,” drive while being served lunch or dinner in the restaurant and NYAJ’s is donating 15 percent of the cost of your meal to our Sweats for Vets veterans program. Visit www.nwfcufoundation.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 24

Black Friday Brunch. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Community Canteen in Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Breakfast menu includes custom omelets, breakfast sandwiches, Belgian waffles, and more, plus fresh-baked treats at the counter, Metropolis Coffee and Rishi Tea. Call 703-707-9442 or visit communitycanteen.com.

27th Annual Reston Holiday Parade. 11 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Day of holiday activities including tree lighting and singing. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

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.

NOV. 24-JAN. 4

Gingerbread Village. Various times at at the Hyatt Regency Reston,



Wall hanging by Lynn Purple Art Exhibit

Wall hanging is part of a cotton collective art show on exhibit through Dec. 2 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Exhibit called “The Fabric of Families Center Street Cotton Collective.” Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. See the annual display in the hotel lobby. Call 703-709-1234 or visit reston.hyatt.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 30

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Poet Alan King will read from and sign his new book “Point Blank.” Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Jingle on Lake Anne. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Lake Anne, Reston. The free holiday event hosted by Lake Anne Merchants, will include a visit from Santa arriving on a lake barge, music, merchant specials, children’s crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market. Visit info@lakeanneplaza.com.

Museum Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at Lake Anne, Reston. Browse exhibitions, find Reston-inspired gifts, hot chocolate and cookies while they last. Author Watt Hamlett and illustrator Jill Ollison Vinson will have a book signing of “Reston A to Z.” Visit info@lakeanneplaza.com.

Meet the Christmas Author. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Sue Fliess will be doing a storytime reading and book signing with her new Christmas book “We Wish for a Monster Christmas.” Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900

Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Meet the Author. 8 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Terry Tempest Williams will talk about her book “The Hour of Land.” Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

DEC. 2-18

Willy Wonka on Stage. Various times at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop’s professional company on stage for Charlie Bucket’s visit to Willy Wonka’s mysterious chocolate factory. \$25; family (4+) and group (10+) discounts available. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Run with Santa 5K. 8:30 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Jump into the season’s spirit and wear the favorite holiday gear or costume. Free kids fun-run with finisher medals. Call 703-689-0999 or visit praces.com/runwithsanta.

Herndon’s 39th Annual Holiday Arts and Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Over 80 artisans and crafts will exhibit and sell their handmade work at this annual arts and crafts show sponsored by the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department. Call 703-435-6800, ext. 2109 or email

john.walsh@herndon-va.gov.

Mini-Train Rides. noon-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Holiday Crafts Day. Various times at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy Christmas at the Farm, write letters to Santa, decorate cookies, take a wagon ride with Santa, and enjoy seasonal craft projects. Call 703 -437-9101.

THURSDAY/DEC. 7

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Suzanne Scurlock-Durana will be doing a guided meditation/reading/ book signing of her book “Reclaiming Your Body: Healing from Trauma and Awakening Your Body’s Wisdom.” Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

DEC. 8-9

Christmas Store Help Needed. Friday night for set up and Saturday to escort shoppers at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE. Call 703-938-7213.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Meet the Author. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Dar Williams will be at the store to sing and sign copies of her book “What I Found in 1000 Towns: A Traveling Musician’s Guide to Rebuilding America’s Communities

— One Coffee Shop, Dog Run, and Open-Mic Night at a Time.” 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.

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Mini-Train Rides. noon-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Holiday Crafts Day. Various times at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy Christmas at the Farm, write letters to Santa, decorate cookies, take a wagon ride with Santa, and enjoy seasonal craft projects. Call 703-437-9101.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Alan Tom will be launching his new book “The Disgusting Adventures of Bugaboo and Buzz Buzz: Into the Toilet of Doom.” Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 12

Folk Music. 7:15 p.m. at Amphora Deluxe Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Abbie Gardner presented by The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon. \$11 (\$10 members) Call 703-925-0900 or visit www.amphoragroup.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 15

Games with the Author. 6 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Challenge 5 young adult authors are coming to the store for a game night. They will be playing Mad Libs, Pictionary etc with them. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

Mini-Train Rides. noon-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 23

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 1

New Year’s Day 5K. 10 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. music, food, awards, and fun celebration following the race. Presented by Potomac River Running. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH MERRILL MCFARLANE

Anna McFarlane, 19, of Herndon holds her prize after winning her age group with a time of 21:39 in the Herndon Turkey Trot. Pictured with her are Luke McFarlane, 10 and Chris McFarlane, 10.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HERNDON PARKS AND RECREATION

Zachery Morse, 14, places second in the Herndon Turkey Trot 5K with a time of 17:30.

Runners and Walkers Take On Herndon's Turkey Trot 5K

Parks and Recreation Awards Thanksgiving turkeys with all the trimmings.

Runners and walkers of all shapes and sizes took part in the Turkey Trot 5K race produced by Herndon Parks and Recreation on Saturday, Nov. 18. Parks and Recreation welcomed runners of all ages and presented the race as part of their "Fit Through the Holidays Race Series."

Keeping in the spirit of the season, Parks and Recreation requested a canned food donation with each registration. Food was donated to LINK, the local nonprofit 501(c) (3) charity that provides emergency food to people needing assistance in the surrounding communities.

Parks and Recreation awarded a Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings to the winning male and female runners, Joe Lorusso, 27 of Oak Hill who placed first in the men's division with a time of 17:09 and Chelsea Bierber, 33, who placed first in the women's division with a time of 19:54.

Other top winners in the male division were Zachary Moss, 14, 17:30; Alex Hoak, 26, 17:32; John Asmare, 17, 17:58, and Jason Utgaard, 17, 18:21.

Other top winners in the female division were M. Gibson, 13, 20:57; Julie Hayden, 57, 21:09; Anna McFarlane, 19, 21:39 and Kris Beckert, 35, 21:42.

Race results for other runners can be viewed at herndon-va.gov, see 2017 Race Results.

— MERCIA HOBSON



People of all ages, sizes, and shapes joined in the fun for the Herndon Turkey Trot 5K held Saturday, Nov. 18.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HERNDON PARKS AND RECREATION



Herndon Town Forester, John Dudzinsky gives a double "Rocky Fist Pump" as he conquers the Turkey Trot 5K course.

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The Children's CONNECTION 2017

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The edition has won many awards. We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens, or other creative efforts. To submit material, identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to editors@connectionnewspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 27.

Publishes December 27 | Ads Due December 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

\$12 or \$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. Call 202-986-2257 or visit www.meditation-dc.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Announcements

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Roundtable

FROM PAGE 3

and nonprofits. “We are cutting our social safety network, one strand at a time,” said Mercer.

Multop donned his economist’s hat once more to also note that so far he had heard no mention from the GOP plan makers of the debt service on the increasing deficit. “That’s another \$200 billion in interest costs that I don’t hear them having accounted for.” Multop’s concern is that Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security benefits will become the targets to shore up the financial levee in the wake of these tax cuts and the domino effect of their implementation.

Another personalized example of the the proposed reforms was offered by attendee Edythe Kelleher. The executive director of Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, Kelleher could have spoken about impacts to development in that region, but instead, told how cuts to student loan interest deductions and a proposal to tax teacher’s assistant stipends would affect her graduate-school son.

“He works, he goes to school, he lives frugally. We provided him with a cheap car.” Kelleher says that if a tax on the modest teacher’s assistant stipend is adopted, “that’s \$6,000 more each year, and he doesn’t know where that money will come from.”

Connolly responded to this story by saying the need to educate for competitiveness in the world’s marketplace is greater than ever. The congressman said that making getting an education even more difficult means “some will have to leave school. That’s hardly ‘making America great again.’”

As the session came to a close, NVAR CEO Conrad asked Connolly, “What’s your advice? What do we do next?”

In addition to the rally call to NVAR membership and AARP members, Connolly replied, “Run, don’t walk and immediately express your concerns to your representatives” at every level of government, and “tell everyone you know. This plan does not reflect our values and priorities. We can and should do better than this.”

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH DEC. 3

Coat and Blanket Drive. Nova Relief Center is holding a blanket and coat drive for Syrian and Iraqi refugees who have fled their homes to escape the violence from the civil war in Syria. Paxton Van Lines and Maersk are donating their services this year. Donated blankets and coats should be new or gently worn, and may be dropped off at any designated drop-off location below. Visit www.NOVAReliefCenter.org.

- ❖ Oak Hill Elementary School, 3210 Kinross Circle, Herndon
- ❖ Town of Herndon – Town Hall, 777 Lynn St.
- ❖ The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive, Herndon
- ❖ Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon
- ❖ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2727 Centerville Road, Herndon
- ❖ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1515 Poplar Grove Drive, Reston
- ❖ Office of Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston

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Welcome to the Club



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

“Some club,” as my late mother would likely scoff. And the club to which I refer is, to spin an old Groucho Marx joke: a club you’d rather not join especially if they’d have you as a member. This is of course, the cancer club, a club whose membership continues to grow despite worldwide efforts to the contrary. According to Medscope.com, one in two men and one in three women will be affected by cancer in their lifetime. Hardly a statistic to be ignored. And so, even though I had a rather uneventful/healthy upbringing and further on into adulthood, in late middle age, 54 and five months, Feb. 27, 2009, I was impacted and rudely awakened with a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis – out of the blue, and given a “13 month to two-year” prognosis to boot. As a life long non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer, whose parents both lived well into their 80s, I was more inclined to worry about the Boston Red Sox pitching depth than I was about cancer.

But cancer, for the past nearly nine years has been my life and amazingly, so far anyway, not the cause of my premature death (what death isn’t ‘premature?’). And what brightens my day and lifts my spirits more than anything else (other than a Red Sox World Series Championship) is when I meet a newly-diagnosed lung cancer patient who exhibits the can/will do positive-type attitude necessary to endure the inevitable ups and downs to follow. To be selfish, it empowers me and strengthens my own resolve to live life to the fullest (it’s not as simple as saying it) and damn the torpedoes.

Within the last few months, I have met, over the phone, two such individuals. The first man, Lee, I met before he even had his first infusion. The second man, Mark, a bit more experienced, I met a year and a half after his first infusion. Each man was engaging, outgoing, confident, enthusiastic and quite frankly, happy to make my acquaintance. You see, after being given a less-than-desirable prognosis, it’s helpful to meet someone who, despite having received a similar diagnosis, has nevertheless managed to live almost nine years post diagnosis. (If he can do it, I can do it kind of feeling.)

As for me, the nearly nine-year survivor, meeting cancer patients who are at the beginning of their respective cancer journeys, helps me to reconnect with my roots, so to speak, and share and share alike some memorable experiences, both cancer-related and not. In a way, we get to live vicariously through one another which for me reinforces how lucky I’ve been to survive for as long as I have.

And not that I need reminding, but it’s easy to take for granted one’s good fortune and forget – occasionally, the seriousness of my situation and the cloud that hangs over my head. The sword of Damocles has got nothing on me, literally or figuratively. Living with cancer is akin to nothing really. The chance that you’ll survive beyond your prognosis, maybe even have your tumors shrink, or see your scans show “no evidence of disease,” creates a kind of tease that cause your emotions to run the gamut. The possibility of living after being told you’re dying – and vice versa, perhaps more than once, over your abbreviated – or not, life expectancy, is simply too much to handle/absorb sometimes. It’s a roller coaster for sure, but one that rarely comes to a complete stop and never allows you to get off. Moreover, it’s not multiple rides, it’s one long, endless ride with no guarantees about what happens next – or where it even happens.

Meeting people who are ready, willing and able to confront their cancer future is just as important and stimulating as meeting someone like me who hasn’t succumbed to this terrible disease. It’s a win-win situation. Particularly significant when at date of diagnosis, it appeared to be a lose-lose. I’m proud to be a member of the cancer club, especially so when I meet people like Lee and Mark.

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

OPINION

Shop Locally, Give Locally

Every day is for shopping small and shopping locally.

An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 25. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is promoted as a day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

EDITORIAL There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair. And in this area, there doesn't have to be anything small about shopping locally.

But still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of

places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

The small business owner is often the leader for fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the holiday spirit there.

See Connection's Holiday Calendar for great celebrations near you.

❖ Fairfax County:

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/16/holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ Arlington:

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/arlington-holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ Potomac:

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/potomac-almanac-holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ Alexandria:

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/20/alexandria-holiday-calendar-2017/

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Short Deadline for Children's Edition

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent via email, dropbox or google drive or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg

format.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 1.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Focus on Community Policing, Positive Outreach

To the Editor:

In response to: www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/08/commentary-independent-progressive-doublespeak-imm/

Fairfax County police officers do not conduct immigration enforcement sweeps or stop individuals solely to inquire about immigration status. Fairfax County police officers follow General Order 601 and cannot arrest someone unless there is reasonable suspicion that a crime was committed or is being committed.

Operation and policy decisions regarding the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center fall under the authority of the Sheriff, an elected constitutional officer, independent

of the Board of Supervisors. Per Code of Virginia 19.2-83.2, when individuals are arrested and booked into the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, their computerized fingerprints are automatically transmitted to the Virginia State Police's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), regardless of their immigration status. The Virginia State Police forwards the information to other state and federal databases per their guidelines. From there, it is up to ICE to determine who is a priority for deportation. Before 2016, ICE operated under the Priority Enforcement Program and focused its efforts on deporting undocumented immigrants with serious criminal records. Under

the Trump Administration, the Priority Enforcement Program no longer exists, and any immigrant who is in the country illegally may be selected by ICE for deportation.

If ICE places an arrest warrant and an order to detain on an inmate in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, the Sheriff's Office will hold that inmate for up to 48 hours (not counting weekends and holidays) past his or her scheduled release date. If ICE does not take custody of the inmate within that time frame, the inmate will be released.

The Board of Supervisors, the Police Department, the Sheriff's Office and all Fairfax County government agencies comply with state and federal laws, and immi-

gration is a federal matter. Any changes regarding deportations or the focus and direction of ICE must come from the federal level. On the local level, we continue to focus on community policing through positive outreach and building trust with the residents we serve. All residents of Fairfax County should know that Fairfax County police officers are here to protect and serve any and all community members, regardless of citizenship. No person should be afraid to call the police out of fear of deportation — our police officers are not in that business.

Sharon Bulova
Chairman,
Board of Supervisors

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