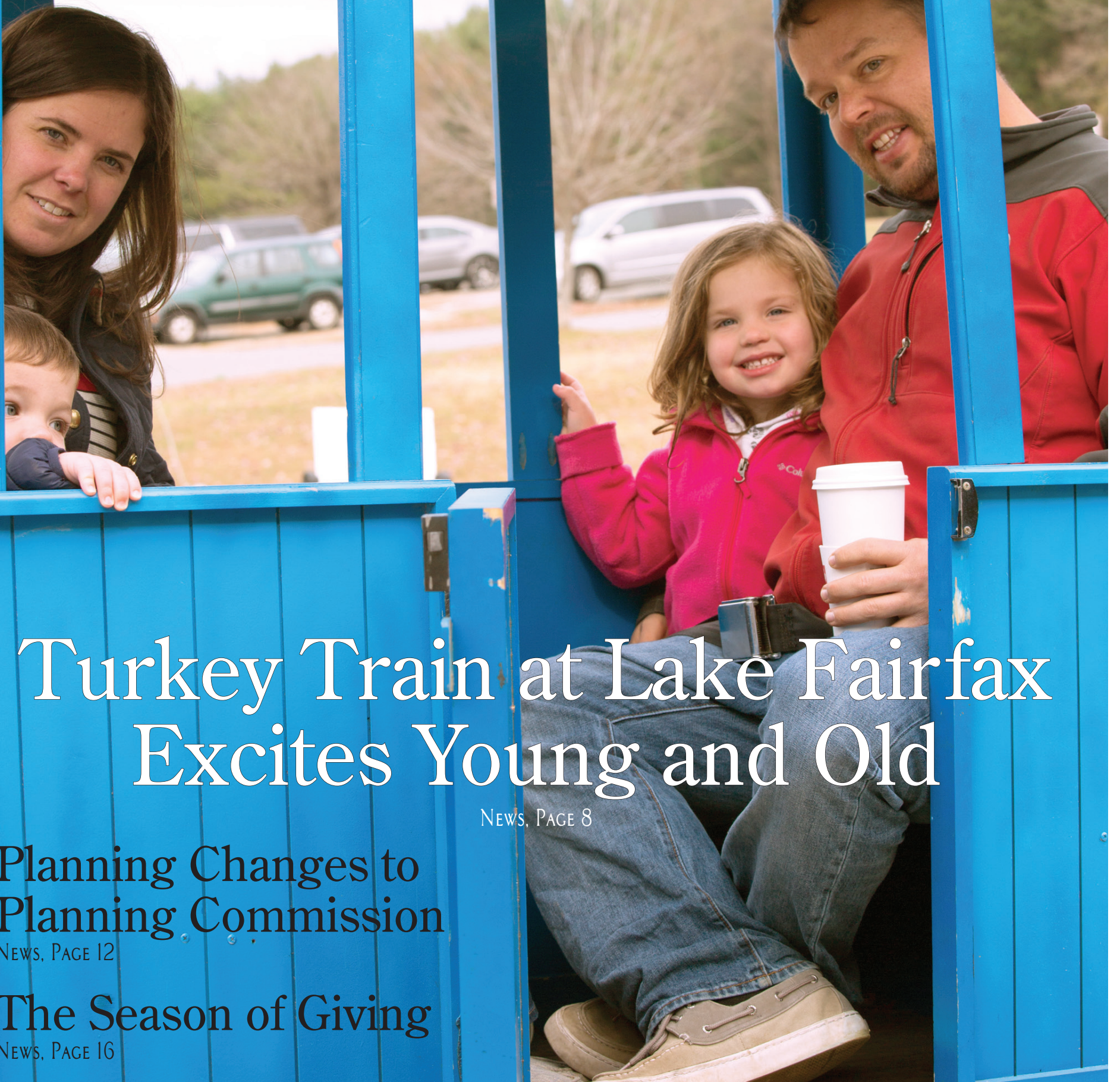


# Reston CONNECTION

From left: Jennifer Thomas, her son Grady, 1, daughter Chelsea, 3, and Todd Thomas were waiting for the train to pull off from the front of the visitor's center Saturday at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston.



## Turkey Train at Lake Fairfax Excites Young and Old

NEWS, PAGE 8

### Planning Changes to Planning Commission

NEWS, PAGE 12

### The Season of Giving

NEWS, PAGE 16





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# ‘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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 15



## 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 \$4,150<sup>1</sup>
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 \$1,260<sup>1</sup>
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

<sup>1</sup> 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 budget<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates). A copy of the proposed budget can be found at [www.fairfaxwater.org](http://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



## Winning the Life Impact Award

Maureen Loftus, owner and executive director of LearningRx Reston and LearningRx Vienna, took home the 2017 Life Impact Award and the 2017 Community Impact Award from LearningRx's national convention held in Colorado Springs recently. The Life Impact Award is given to LearningRx Reston for fulfilling the brain training needs of a client through multiple stages of life. Pictured, from left, is Irene Ward, LearningRx Reston Center Director; Kim Hanson, CEO LearningRx Franchise; Maureen Loftus, Executive Director, LearningRx Vienna/Reston; and Gina Forster, LearningRx Tysons/Vienna Center Director.

## Santa Picture Day

Saturday December 2, 2017  
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## VIEWPOINTS

### What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



**Andrew Edelman from Great Falls, a park manager at Lake Fairfax**

"I'm thankful for having a job here at Fairfax County Parks Authority. I am also thankful for my family and friends and working. During Labor Day and other memorial holidays are the busiest days for us here, when everyone's off, we're on!"



**Joseph Allen, 28, manager on duty with Fairfax County Parks Authority**

"I'm thankful for this lovely county, our customers, our boss, and obviously friends and family. I am grateful for this opportunity and people reaching out and helping each other. I am also thankful that winter is on the way. I was born in it!"



**Jason Bruno, 19, of Herndon, a Lake Fairfax manager on duty**

"I'm thankful for the weather, food, school, family, and friends. Especially I'm thankful for my job being in the outdoors and being in nature. I go camping in the winter in a heated tent with a space heater. A silicone mat keeps you insulated!"

— COLIN STOECKER

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[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter)

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# OPINION

# Shop Locally, Give Locally

Every day is for shopping small and shopping locally.

**A**n 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 ambiance 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/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/16/holiday-calendar-2017/)

#### ❖ Arlington:

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/arlington-holiday-calendar-2017/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/arlington-holiday-calendar-2017/)

#### ❖ Potomac:

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/potomac-almanac-holiday-calendar-2017/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/potomac-almanac-holiday-calendar-2017/)

#### ❖ Alexandria:

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/20/alexandria-holiday-calendar-2017/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/20/alexandria-holiday-calendar-2017/)

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto: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](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com).

❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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/](http://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

Reston  
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## COMMENTARY

# What Now?

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

What happens if a dog that chases vehicles catches one? What happens if a political party that struggles for nearly a decade to regain the majority in a political body realizes its goal? The question is not theoretical. Democrats in the House of Delegates have been working at a 34 to 66 seat disadvantage for the last several years. In an election that produced results seemingly impossible, before recounts Democrats are down by one vote from being tied for control of the House. An even 50-50 or a one vote advantage are possible as soon as the official vote tallies in three elections are determined.

Regardless of the final number, the House of Delegates will have to operate more on consensus than on an absolute dominance of one party over the other. That is a good thing. Rather than either party having to play defense all the time, both parties will be responsible for the ultimate outcome of a legislative session. The new shift in the balance of power should be good for the

Commonwealth. There should be less bottling up tough bills in a committee or subcommittee without a hearing or vote. Legislators will be put on the spot to cast tough votes, but that is the way the legislative process should work. Some issues that have been side-stepped in recent years should reach the floor for a public vote.

For years members of the majority party of the House of Delegates have refused to allow a vote on health insurance for 400,000 of our most vulnerable citizens leaving more than 10 billion federal dollars on the table.

I think the vote in the recent election reflected in part a disgust on the part of citizens for the legislators who refused to deal with a real public health issue. An early vote on agreeing to Medicaid expansion would send a signal to voters that their message has been received.

Election results also demonstrated the impact of gerry-rigging election district lines that has been going on for many years. Establishing a non-partisan redistricting com-



mission as I have advocated for many years and as proposed by the OneVirginia2021 organization will reduce the politics in the redistricting process that will come again after the 2020 federal census. Voters will choose their representatives rather than having legislators choose their voters.

I believe that a newly constituted House of Delegates made up of members elected by the highest level of voter participation in decades will also be less prone to involve themselves in the personal lives and social issues of the times.

Too much time has been expended in the recent past debating who someone should be able to love or marry or who should make health decisions for women.

Some incumbents may find difficulty adjusting to a wonderfully more diverse House membership or feel uncomfortable in a new power-sharing agreement with another party, but the outcome should be good for Virginia. What now? Great opportunities for moving Virginia forward!

# Proposed Zoning: Way Too Much, Way Beyond Fairfax County Competence

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

And the beat goes on. We've had our last community meeting on Fairfax County's plan to rezone Reston's PRC (Planned Residential Community) areas from 13 to 16 persons per acre, according to the Zoning Administrator. The next step presumably will be the "public hearing" at the County Planning Commission, followed by final approval by the Board of Supervisors in Spring 2018?

The last in a series of town hall meetings at South Lakes High School attended by 800 or more was all heat, little light. It did serve to demonstrate deep and widespread community opposition to the plan. Lost in upset and anger was Supervisor Cathy Hudgins' suggestion in a prior meeting of possible compromise between 13 and 16 per acre. A senior County planning official later confirmed that compromise was still on the table, but as far as I know the Supervisor has not mentioned it again. Without it, dialogue is not in sight.

This push for massive growth is, I believe, driven by County staff and politicians thirsty for revenue from the limitless high end growth potential they see in a prostrate, powerless community. Fairfax cannot ratchet up growth for their coffers in Herndon, Fairfax, or Vienna, for example, because, despite their smaller populations, they are self-governing. Reston is not.

Growth need not be a bad thing. In fact, a more urban Reston was part of Mr. Simon's

vision. However, support for major new growth must be conditioned on Fairfax providing genuine guarantees that such growth will not include further decline in our quality of life, a decline which is already underway. Unfortunately, when Supervisor Hudgins and Zoning Administrator Johnson speak of increasing persons per acre from 13 to 16 — and much more in the transit station areas — they offer no tangible assurances that quality of life will not be trampled in the process.

What do I mean by "quality of life?" For me, quality of life includes: transportation infrastructure that enables us to travel around Reston without humongous hassle and delay; public schools to fully serve kids K thru 12 and even university as Simon envisioned; adequate fire & rescue service; and, parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities proportionate to what we have had for all ages — all part of Mr. Simon's vision of "the good life" in Reston.

But the County provides no credible assurances, and no actual plan or financial scheme for doing any of it. If you look in the new Reston Master Plan, you'll find tons of planned new density and density bonuses for residential and commercial development shoehorned into maps. Now, look for the additional parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, schools, firehouses, etc. You won't find them because they are not there. What



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

scraps you may find are nowhere near proportional to what exists. Yet, all of these plan elements are within the power of Fairfax County (not Reston) to fund and provide.

Notice I've not mentioned transportation infrastructure? That's because Fairfax County

does not have the authority to approve/build anything beyond tiny neighborhood streets — and

these they can only do with the good will of developers through "proffers" in this Dillon Rule state. Most streets and main arteries, including three additional crossings of the toll road, are strictly the purview of the Commonwealth of Virginia, typically requiring 20 or more years from concept to construction as is the case for the Soapstone crossing, for example.

In order for Reston to grow and be faithful to the Reston vision, Fairfax County needs to do one of two things: either cut its plans for growth to levels commensurate with Reston standards and actually feasible, say for a population of 70,000 20 years from now — not 120,000; or, demand that the Virginia legislature authorize a referendum asking Reston residents if they wish to decide these matters as a self-governing entity OR remain subjects of Fairfax County.

Next: Reston Association, in its frantic search to use Lake House, now provides subsidized child care for 19 kids in a marketplace loaded with alternatives.

## Standing Up to Forces of Hate Commemorating Jewish experience in Holocaust.

In our comfortable community in Reston, it's easy to let the horrors of the Holocaust slip out of mind. Yet as recent events in Charlottesville and other places remind us, there are many people who do not forget — so they can threaten and scare us again. When we gather to retell the stories, we ensure that we will understand why we must stand up to the forces of hate. Commemoration weekend events will take place at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. For more information call 703-437-7733 or visit [nvhcreston.org](http://nvhcreston.org).

### Commemoration Weekend Events

**THURSDAY, NOV. 30, 8 P.M.**

Petr Papousek, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic will speak on Czech Jewry today.

**FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 1**

A special reading from the Czech scroll, along with a sample of Czech Jewish music from Kol Shirah and other music honoring the victims of the Holocaust. At this service, we will be chanting from this scroll as part of our service, and for the Aliyah would like to invite up anyone who is a Holocaust survivor or related to a survivor. Please be in touch with Cantor Caro directly if you would like to be called up for this honor.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 2 DURING SERVICES**

The b'nai mitzvah will read from the scroll. Following services, Shabbat lunch and conversations with two experts on both the experience of being deported and coming to grips with the aftermath. Michleah Amir will speak on the experiences of Czech Jews before, during, and immediately after the war. The Amir family obtained a Torah from Hermanuv Mestec from the Memorial Scrolls Trust and donated it to Congregation Beth El in Bethesda. Mark Talisman will speak on the fate of the Czech Jews' possessions, both with respect to the Czech Torahs that were obtained by the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London and distributed worldwide and the other goods processed by the Czech Jewish Museum, many of which were included in the Smithsonian's Precious Legacy exhibit. If there is time, he will speak on the early years of the Holocaust Museum. To join for lunch, make a reservation by contacting [Susan@susantrivers.com](mailto:Susan@susantrivers.com).

**SUNDAY, DEC. 3, 11 A.M.**

Our fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students, their families, and anyone else who may be interested, are invited to attend a presentation by Czech Holocaust survivor Marty Weiss, followed by a brief Q&A session.





### 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"



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10th  
BEST  
READERS' CHOICE  
2016  
RESTON TOWN CENTER

**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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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  
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Potbelly Sandwich Works  
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...and much more!

## News



**Cullen Monk, who works for the U.S. Treasury Department, with his son, Faelan, 1 and a half years old, and Elizabeth Monk, who works with FEMA, riding the Turkey Train at Lake Fairfax Park on Saturday in Reston.**

**The Turkey Train at Lake Fairfax Park makes a lap on Saturday in Reston. Adults and children could sign up to ride for \$5 each.**

## Turkey Train at Lake Fairfax Excites Young and Old

BY COLIN STOECKER  
THE CONNECTION

Children and parents piled onto the Holiday train at Lake Fairfax Park on Saturday to celebrate Thanksgiving early with a ride on the Turkey Train. The event was held at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston on Saturday and offered families a chance to ride for \$5 a person.

"I think it's really nice," said Pauline Tsai, a local doctor whose children were riding the train with her husband. "A lot of little boys love moving vehicles and mine is no exception! You can see all of the leaves this time of year in the fall," she said. This was her first time at the event.

"This time of year, I am thankful for my kids, my two little boys," said Tsai. "It may not seem like a big thing to adults, but for the kids it's pretty awesome," she said.

Other young families with little children were lined up to ride the four-car train after it returned from its steadily paced loop around the circle and the edge of Lake Fairfax.

Devin Nguyen, 2 and a half, rides the Turkey train with his mother Brenda Nguyen and sister Sofie, four years old, at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston Saturday.

Todd Thomas of Vienna and his wife Jennifer were also waiting for the train to pull off from the front of the visitor's center with their two children, Chelsea, 3, and Grady, 1. "We're excited, and we enjoyed waving as it rode by the first time," said Jennifer Thomas.

Christina Wu, assistant park supervisor, was in charge of arranging the event. "It is a great opportunity for families to get outdoors and enjoy a train ride in the park," she said.

The event has been going on for about five or six years. Saturday there were at least 30 families on a waitlist, as train conductor Andrew Edelman used a clipboard to keep track of whose turn it was to board.

"I just love to bring smiles to everyone and make sure that they're happy. I also enjoy getting a good view of the lake," said Edelman.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Edelman shared what he was thankful for this holiday season.

"I'm thankful for having a job here at Fairfax County Parks Authority. Labor Day and memorial holidays are the busiest days for us here, when everyone's off, we're on!" he said.

## Bringing Babies High-Tech Medical Care

**Reston Hospital Center and StoneSprings Hospital Center partner in telemedicine.**

A program connecting neonatal specialists from Reston Hospital Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to StoneSprings Hospital Center will allow experts to collaborate, diagnose and treat babies in distress.

"We are pleased to implement this new program which allows the NICU team at Reston Hospital to provide that additional support for a higher level of care via the latest technology to the families at StoneSprings Hospital Center," said John Deardorff, President and CEO of Reston Hospital Center and the Northern Virginia Market. "The TeleNICU program exemplifies our deep commitment to innovation and the use of proven technology to extend the reach of our expertise beyond the walls of our hospital," said Lance Jones, CEO, StoneSprings Hospital Center.

Pediatricians at StoneSprings Hospital Center, located in Dulles, Va., can now connect in real-time to neonatologists at Reston Hospital Center using specialized equipment that includes medical-quality videoconferencing, secure data transfer and a specialized stethoscope and camera for the physical examination.

The TeleNICU program can be used for a wide range of consults, including interpreting medical data and images, confirming diagnoses, and conferring on treatment plans. If further care is needed, this program allows for coordinated care and transport to the Level III NICU at Reston Hospital Center. "This program allows physicians, nursing staff and other healthcare professionals to collaboratively participate in cutting edge care of these patients and families," said Dr. Timothy Shaver, Medical Staff President, StoneSprings Hospital Center.

"With families growing at exponential rates, it makes complete sense for our NICU team based at Reston Hospital to extend our services to the communities being served by StoneSprings Hospital," said Dr. Kenneth Harkavy, head of Neonatal Medicine at Reston Hospital Center. "The collaboration between our clinical teams will help to decrease delays in critical care that babies in distress may need."



## 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  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

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

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://restontowncenter.com).



## NEWS

# America's Relationship With Its Environment

**Terry Tempest Williams at CenterStage.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**N**aturalist Terry Tempest Williams is recognized for potent writing about her reverence and respect for the natural world, especially America's National Parks. Williams is considered a writer with a clear ethical vision on behalf of the environment.

Williams is also acknowledged for her eloquence and compelling presentations about the connections between the nature world and social issues. In an address at Reston's CenterStage, Williams will express her views about the current state of America's public lands and their future. The presentation will be based upon Williams' recent book "The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks." The book is a collection of a dozen essays about the current condition of some of America's most famous national treasures, accompanied by photographs to illustrate her words.

"I am so looking forward to visiting the Reston Community Center which is committed to diversity and inclusivity," said Williams. "I hope to show how America's National Parks are also diverse and foster a respect for the nation's multiplicity of storied landscapes and personal histories."

The first national park, Yellowstone, was established by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872. The National Park system was established in 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill creating the National Park Service. More than 300 million visited the parks last year. "These lands belong to all of us," said Williams.

"When you think of basic human rights like clean air and clean water this is an environmental issue, but when you think of the polluted waters in Flint, Michigan and the toxic situation for its residents from children to the elderly, this becomes an issue of en-



PHOTO BY CHERYL HIMMELSTEIN/COURTESY RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER

**Environmental author and activist Terry Tempest Williams**

## Where & When

Reston Community Center presents Terry Tempest Williams with "The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks" at Reston CenterStage, Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performance: Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 - \$20 (non-Reston). Call 703-476-4500 or visit [restoncommunitycenter.com](http://restoncommunitycenter.com).

vironmental and social justice, especially in regards to marginalized communities," said Williams.

"Environmental issues are issues of health and well-being," added Williams. "Healthy landscapes contributing to healthy communities. It's all interrelated and interconnected."

Reston Community Center's Arts and Events Director Paul Mischewicz, said, "When I read 'The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks' I was riveted by the passion and poetry which with Terry Tempest Williams explores not only our National Parks but also our national soul." Northern Virginians will be able to have their personal opportunity to be riveted by Terry Tempest Williams and "The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks." As Williams noted, America's National Parks and wilderness areas are places to "encounter the miraculous."

**FREE**  
Admission & Parking

**Herndon  
Holiday  
Arts & Crafts  
Show**

**Sunday 3** **10<sup>AM</sup> - 4<sup>PM</sup>**  
**December**

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

**Herndon Community Center**  
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**herndon-va.gov/events** **703-787-7300**

**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.**

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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.

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**Frank de la Fe,**  
Hunter Mill District



**Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner,**  
Providence District



**Peter Murphy, chair,**  
Springfield District



**Janyce Hedetniemi,**  
at-large



**James Hart, at-large**



**Karen Keys-Gamarra**

## Planning Changes to Planning Commission

**Twelve-member commission endures multiple changes through grief, triumphs, retirement and more during 2017.**

BY KEN MOORE

**T**wo seats on the 12-member Fairfax County Planning Commission remain open.

And earlier this month, Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins announced Frank de la Fe's decision to retire at the end of the calendar year.

"After 16 years of dedicated service, the Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner Frank de la Fe has announced his intention to retire," Hudgins told the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on Nov. 2. De la Fe has served on the planning commission since 2001, and currently is vice chair.

Hudgins will appoint a new commissioner to begin on Jan. 28, 2018.

"We will have lots to say about Frank in the future," said Hudgins.

Sully District Supervisor Kathy L. Smith will also search for a new planning commissioner.

"I guess it's a day for Planning Commission announcements," she said at the supervisors' meeting.

Smith's Planning Commissioner Karen Keys-Gamarra announced her resignation effective Oct. 25. Keys-Gamarra won a special election in August to fill the at-large

School Board seat vacated by Jeanette Hough two years into serving her four-year term. Hough resigned after her husband accepted a position overseas.

Of Keys-Gamarra, Smith said, "As much as I would have loved for her to continue as my planning commissioner, it's just not possible to do both jobs."

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity followed.

"I have no news on my planning commissioner," he said. "That is good."

Herrity's Planning Commissioner is Peter Murphy who also serves as chair of the Planning Commission and was first appointed to the commission in 1982.

**MURPHY ANNOUNCED** at-large commissioner Janyce Hedetniemi's immediate resignation at the opening of the Planning Commission's public hearing on Oct. 26.

"It's a great loss to the commission, she knows it, we all know it," said Murphy. "We appreciate everything you have done for us."

Chairman Sharon Bulova appointed Hedetniemi in 2013 and plans to appoint her successor at the Board meeting on Nov. 21.

Murphy read a full version of

Hedetniemi's statement to the commission:

"Tonight, I step away from this wonderful experience as an at-large member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission. ... From capital improvements to land use and parks, schools, the environment and more, here it is, we give it all, through regulations, procedures, judgement and intuition, always in public view, and sometimes until 2 in the morning."

"I am proud to have shared the title of commissioner with my esteemed colleagues," she wrote. "Commissioners, the honor has been mine. I wish you all the best in your continuing efforts for the betterment of Fairfax County."

**THE PLANNING COMMISSION** on Sept. 14 voted to change the start time of public meetings in January from 8:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in part to encourage additional citizen participation and to keep meetings from lasting as late into the night.

The Planning Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on all matters related to land use in Fairfax County, a particularly busy time right now reviewing redevelopment along the Silver Line. The commission holds public hearings, often multiple times a week, and often brings together residents, developers and county planners to work through concerns and conflicts.

This includes the location and character of public facilities; amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, the Public Facilities Ordinance, and the Subdivision Ordinance; rezonings and special exceptions; approvals of final development plans; and also sometimes advises the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Planning commissioners are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for four-year terms



**Kenneth Lawrence,**  
former  
Providence  
District  
commissioner

on a staggered basis. Each of the nine supervisory districts has a representative, and three members are appointed at-large.

**PHILLIP NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER** replaced Kenneth Lawrence as the Providence Planning Commissioner on Jan. 11, 2017.

Lawrence died in December 2016 after serving 13 years on the Planning Commission.

"Ken had a difficult role, responsibility for Providence District at an exciting time, doing new and ambitious things in Tysons and elsewhere," said colleague James Hart, at-large planning commissioner.

"His public service responsibility was a part of his core being. He gave the County all he had," said Hart.

Hart and Lawrence were sworn in on the same day 13 years ago.

"I could count on one hand the number of votes Ken and I disagreed in that 13 years. I couldn't begin to count the number of hours we spent in meetings together, so many topics," he said. "Ken's legacy added so much to Fairfax County. ... We absolutely will have more and better parks in Tysons thanks to him. His commitment improved our quality of life."

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### THROUGH NOV. 26

**Parking Garage Closing.** Due to construction of the new Fairfax County commuter parking garage at the future Metrorail Silver Line's Herndon Station site, the access road from Sunrise Valley Drive to the Herndon-Monroe Park and Ride

facility will be closed through Sunday, Nov. 26. Commuters who wish to use the existing Herndon-Monroe garage during this time will need to enter and exit the facility via the Dulles Toll Road (Rt. 267). This detour will require drivers to pay a \$1 toll upon exiting the garage with an E-Z Pass or exact change. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) for more.

#### ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER White House Ornaments Sale.

Through Dec. 15, 2017 White House Ornaments available for purchase from Assistance League of Northern Virginia for \$22 per ornament. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit's children's programs. Local delivery can be arranged. Visit [northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).

#### 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 homelands 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. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit NOVA Relief Center's website at [www.NOVAReliefCenter.org](http://www.NOVAReliefCenter.org)  
❖ Oak Hill Elementary School, 3210 Kinross Circle, Herndon

❖ Town of Herndon – Town Hall, 777 Lynn St., Herndon  
❖ 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,

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 15

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# Local Residents Hit the Ice in Reston

## Reston Holiday Parade Nov. 24.

BY MARTI MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

“Holidays are here” proclaims the red and white banner strung across Market Street at the Reston Town Center near the square and pavilion. Visitors to this shopping and dining destination are ready as early as Nov. 12.

Local resident Ryan McKinney said he and wife went on their first date here at the Reston Town Center ice rink “when we were 15 years old.” On a Sunday afternoon, the 1998 graduates of Langley High School in McLean brought their young sons to this special place they hold near and dear to their hearts.

“This is their first day skating,” says Jessie McKinney as she holds her toddler, Finn, while he gets used to standing his ground on a slick surface.

His older brother has this new skating adventure under control at the ripe old age of 3 years old. Bryce McKinney’s little happy feet move quickly across the ice as he steers his skating partner — a penguin ice scooter. No worries: Bryce’s dad is both wingman and defensive player on the ice, and Ryan is poised to catch his center if necessary.

The Reston Town Center kicks off Black Friday in a bright way Nov. 24 for the whole family — starting at 8 a.m. with gingerbread races for kids, followed by its 27th annual parade at 11 o’clock.

Afternoon fun includes mini-train rides along Market Street and photo opportunities with Santa Claus. The Fountain Square takes center stage at 5 p.m., with a performance by Reston dance academy — the Conservatory Ballet — and a tree-lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. Visitors also can make donations to local non-profit Volunteer Fairfax and experience horse-drawn carriage rides for \$5 each from 6:30-10 p.m. Call the Reston Town Center at 703-579-6720. Learn more about the RTC winter festivities online at [www.restontowncenter.com/event/holidays](http://www.restontowncenter.com/event/holidays).



**Visitors to the Reston Town Center pavilion take a spin around the ice rink during a peaceful Sunday afternoon as Veterans Day weekend comes to a close. It won’t be long before Market Street is filled with holiday shoppers on Black Friday. The Reston Town Center winter season kicks off Nov. 24 bright and early at 8 a.m. with gingerbread races for kids, followed by its 27th annual Reston Holiday Parade at 11 a.m.**



**Ryan McKinney, left, applauds his 3-year-old son, Bryce, Sunday afternoon at the Reston Town Center pavilion. His wife, Jessie McKinney, right, holds onto their other toddler, Finn, so his feet can get used to the slick surface. Both parents admit it’s a blast teaching their kids how to skate for the first time Nov. 12. This particular rink holds a special place in their hearts. “We went on our first date here when we were 15 years old,” says Ryan, 38.**

PHOTOS BY  
MARTI MOORE  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY VALERIE LISTER

Olivia Beckner

## Olivia Beckner of South Lakes to Run for Syracuse University

Olivia Beckner, a senior at South Lakes High School and the Liberty District, Region D and 6A State Champion in cross country this season, signed a National Letter of Intent with Syracuse University on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Beckner led the SLHS girls cross country team to its first district/conference championship since 2001 last month by successfully defending her conference title. She followed that with the region victory that

helped the team finish third and advance to the state championship. She won the state title last week after finishing second last year.

She has been All-Conference, All-Region and All-State for the past two years in cross country.

Beckner also competes for the SLHS indoor and outdoor track and field teams, where she has been an 11-time All-State competitor and has been named to the Washington Post All-Met team.



**From left: Coach Joseph Schuler, Coach Moises Joseph, Mark Beckner, Olivia Beckner, Sonia Cornish, and Coach Scott Raczko.**



Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](mailto:shawl@saint-timothys.org) or visit the Pastoral Care page at [www.saint-timothys.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.epiphanypreschool.com).

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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

FROM PAGE 12

Reston

❖ Office of Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

**Supervisor Hudgins Holiday Open House.**  
4:30-6:30 p.m. at the North County Governmental Center Community Room, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive. Email huntermillRSVP@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 16

**Application Deadline.** The Reston Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on the committee. All residents of Reston, over 18 years of age are eligible to serve. The committee consists of fifteen (15) members with five (5) positions expiring each year, and three (3) associate members that serve one year terms. To serve on the Reston P&Z Committee, find the application at rpz.myreston.org and return it with your resume, as per the instructions on the application.

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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.



# The Season of Giving

Our neighbors still need our help.

By ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

For the United States of America, 2017 has been a year like no other. Disaster after disaster struck, from one end of the country to the other, and even beyond its shorelines. Hurricanes, fire, floods, even earthquakes that hit our neighbors to the south.

The “six degrees of separation” theory was definitely in evidence. Mention Hurricane Harvey, or talk about memories of vacations in Key West or Puerto Rico before they, too, were devastated by winds and water, or have a glass of cabernet from California with friends, and somebody will tell you of a friend or a family member, or even themselves, who have experienced the destruction, the upheaval, or even the loss of life that accompanied these events. Perhaps that line of connection was the reason that so many pitched in and donated a lot, or a little, whatever they could. Food, water, clothes, money, school supplies, or even their own time and physical labor were given unselfishly to the victims of these disasters, who so needed, and who so many still need, our assistance.

**ODDLY**, that line of connection seems to blur when we look into our own “backyard.” Maybe it’s because there are no large-font headlines to announce the needs of our Northern Virginia neighbors. There is no one single event to blame. Maybe it’s because when it’s the family next door, that very proximity makes those in need reluctant to let us see their struggle, and us, sometimes less willing to acknowledge that there could be a need so great right beside us.

Whatever the reasons, the needs of our local neighbors are just as great, and our local government agencies and nonprofits hope that the community will come to their aid as well, especially during the traditional “Season of Giving.”

“The disasters that have impacted our nation are terrible and devastating. They need our attention and assistance,” says Lisa Groves, Executive Director of nonprofit Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), “yet we cannot forget that we still have households struggling in our local communities. We need to address their personal crises while we do our part to support other needs in our nation.”

Groves shared with the Connection just a few of the stories that accompanied requests for assistance, from both private and public partner referrals, and directly from some of those in need. (Details from the emailed requests have been edited to protect the privacy of the clients, but much is exactly as written.)

❖ “I am a single mother. I do work, but a few weeks ago I got sick and was hospital-

ized. I lost time off from work and fell behind on my rent. Can someone please help? I do not want to lose my apartment, especially because of my kids.”

❖ “In dire straights. I have sold almost everything, used all my savings, exhausted everyone to borrow from. I have never had this. I don’t have anywhere to go...no gas for the car, no money for medication.”

❖ “Homeless and raising daughters in this area. I found a place, but need some financial assistance if possible, just to get started again.”

❖ Fairfax County Police Department, Victim Services Section sent in a request for a family where the mother had just obtained full emergency custody of her two children. On her behalf, FC Victim Services was seeking funds to replace the items for the family that they could not access. The mother had also fallen behind on essential bills, as she was using that money to purchase food and basic necessities for her family.

❖ A social worker with the Fairfax County Services for Older Adults asked for assistance for a homebound client who is falling further and further behind on rent and other bills, as she struggles to pay medical bills and afford more medical testing. “She is even having trouble paying for groceries.”

**THESE ARE JUST** a few of the many requests – and heart-breaking stories – that FISH juggle to respond to, especially since donations have been slower to come in this year, according to Groves. “We have many wonderful donors, like the employees at CDW, who gave thousands of dollars in food and gift cards, the employees of Sallie Mae who prepare ready-to-distribute food packs, and the Cub Scouts who go collecting in Reston neighborhoods. Grocery stores like Safeway South Lakes and Giant Franklin Farm are also generous partners,” she said, “donating tons of canned vegetables and

holding donation campaigns, but it’s going to take everyone pitching in, even just a little, to help all those who need it.”

With so many in need of the basics that FISH and other agencies and nonprofits in the area do their best to provide, it’s easy to forget that particularly in this season the struggle for those less fortunate is made more difficult when they may not be able to share in the “luxuries” of holiday meals and gifts.

“Everything is so pretty,” said a client of the Embury Rucker Shelter in Reston. “Commercials with everyone getting lots of presents. A big Thanksgiving meal. I am happy for those people, but it makes me sadder that I can’t give that to my family.”

**THANKFULLY**, a number of area organizations are trying to lessen that sadness with Thanksgiving meal kits and Christmas presents for children and their parents. Nonprofit Cornerstones of Reston distributes Thanksgiving meal baskets each year and organizes a “Gifts for Kids” program.

LINK, Inc. also provides essential items to those in need, all year long. This year, a record number of families signed up for help during the holidays – 887 families and 4628 individuals. The LINK website, at [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org) is still looking for donations of food, new or gently used coats and winter clothing, new toys, and people to help distribute for the Christmas programs. These are just a few of the agencies and organizations – many staffed by volunteers – that are doing their best to brighten the holiday season for our Northern Virginia neighbors in need. The Connection ran a longer list in the Nov. 9-15 editions and will re-run the list after Thanksgiving. The list is certainly not all-inclusive. If you’re looking to get in on the giving action, there are more agencies and nonprofits out there, and many faith-based communities have special holiday season campaigns, as well. As Lisa Groves of FISH suggested, donations don’t have to be grand gestures, since “every little bit helps a lot.” Grocery store donation events, like GIANT of Fox Mill’s “Buy a Pie for \$3.99” as a holiday meal donation, cost little and don’t require any special shopping activity or drop-off of goods. Sharing can even be a fun family event if you take one of the \$5 Saturdays in December Reston Town Center carriage ride where proceeds benefit local charities. Even your time is valuable, if you can donate some to a distribution effort.

2017 was a tough year, but millions of people, including thousands here in Northern Virginia, generously reached out across the country and even the globe to lessen the pain and the want of others. For organizations like FISH, LINK, Cornerstones, and others, their hope is that in this “Season of Giving” area residents will reach out one more time, a little closer to home.



Herndon-Reston FISH volunteers gathering holiday meal kits, ready for distribution.



Talk about considerate: The folks at nonprofit Herndon-Reston FISH carefully assembled donations to meet individual dietary needs and allergies during the holiday food drive.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HERNDON-RESTON FISH