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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

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Looking back and remi-
niscing what once was is
part of Homecoming. The
antique Herndon Volun-
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TOWN ELECTION

Meet the Candidates for Herndon Mayor, Town Council Members

Candidates take part in a Q&A for The Connection

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

By a Town of Herndon ordinance passed in 2015, during the November General Elections, registered voters in the Town of Herndon are given the opportunity during even-numbered years to vote for one Mayor and not more than six Town Councilmembers to serve two-year terms on the seven-member Herndon Town Council.

This year, the Commonwealth of Virginia Sample Ballot for the County of Fairfax General and Special Elections on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, shows Lisa C. Merkel running uncontested for Mayor. Ten individuals are listed as running for Herndon

Town Councilmembers. They are Joseph T. "Joe" Plummer, Jennifer K. Baker, William J. "Bill" McKenna, Sheila A. Olem, Cesar A. Del Aguila, Signe V. Friedrichs, Grace Wolf Cunningham, Pradip Dhakal, W. J. "Sean" Kenis, Jr. and Roland Taylor.

According to the Town website, the seven-member Town Council establishes Town government policy, acts on local resolutions and ordinances, sets tax rates, approves the annual Town budget, appoints members to the town's boards, and provides policy guidance for the Town Manager.

To help voters in the Town of Herndon get to know the candidates for Mayor and Town Councilmember better, The Connection asked candidates to participate in a Q and A about qualifications, goals, current

issues and future opportunities within a limited word count.

There are nine questions.

1. Why are you running for office and what makes you qualified?

2. If you are a current Town Councilmember, explain how you voted and why on the Proposed Town of Herndon FY 2019 Budget. If you were not a Town Councilmember at that time, how would you have voted if you were and why?

3. Do you support any Town of Herndon tax or fee increase (including but not limited to Real Estate, Personal Property, Meals, Cigarette, Business Professional Occupational License, etc.), and if so, for what specific purpose?

4. What are the two priorities/challenges

you see for the Town in this next term and then after that, including Metro and Downtown Redevelopment, and what might be your proposed actions/solutions.

5. How should the build-out and operation of the proposed new Art Center be funded? Who should operate the Art Center; if you do not know whom, how best would you address this?

6. How would you address inclusive membership/appointment (from our diverse community) on the Town Council, Boards and Commissions?

7. Did you seek the Democratic or Republican Party Endorsement for Town Council and if so, what was the outcome?

8. What financial and volunteer support are you receiving for this campaign?

9. What is important to you that was not addressed in these questions?

Lisa Merkel

lisa@lisa4herndon.org
Mayor (2-year term)



1 — I am running for re-election because I want to see our Downtown Project finally come to life. Downtown has been my focus since being elected in 2010, and we're closer to making it happen than ever before. You can learn more about my background and priorities at www.lisamerkel.com.

2 — In April I voted YES on the budget, which had been a work in progress since November. We raised no tax rates (the real estate rate has remained unchanged since 2011), funded capital improvements, DPW and HPD equipment, and grants to several nonprofits, the arts and Friday Night Live.

3 — Council has worked to maintain quality services without raising taxes - something I'm proud of. I'd like to explore future revenue stream to fund items / events directly related to our 2035 Vision. I'd like to hear residents' thoughts on that: what and when (if any) increase might be palatable?

4 — My biggest priority is closing the deal with Comstock so that our Downtown project breaks ground early next year. This has been years in the making, and residents are excited and ready for a vibrant small town downtown, new restaurant and retail options, the Arts Walk and Arts Center. Herndon Parkway is underutilized and should be studied to see how we can incentivize through traffic to go around the "bypass" rather than cut through downtown. Planning for Metro and ensuring that trails and roads are ready to get us to Herndon Station in a variety of ways is essential. Additionally, I will continue to push Fairfax Connector to provide a circulator component to the new bus routes that begin when Metro opens in 2020.

5 — I'd like our local arts groups to be in the Arts Center. I support exploring longterm fiscally sustainable options that don't place the full burden on taxpayers. I've also worked with Supervisor Foust to secure a \$1.2 million grant from the county to fund portions of the buildout.

6 — We've made an effort to reach out to members of diverse communities seeking interest in our boards and commissions. We've been somewhat successful over the past couple years. Now many boards include diverse experience, ethnic backgrounds, ages, and genders, but there is certainly room for improvement. Our Council candidates are quite diverse this year. Getting out into the community and talking with people is the best way to reach underserved and underrepresented residents.

7 — I have been endorsed by many elected officials and groups and was endorsed by FCDC in 2016. This year I applied, but later withdrew and declined the endorsement. I've heard from many residents - both Republicans and Democrats - that want parties to stay out of our local election. So.

8 — My campaign finance reports can be found on the Board of Elections website. The vast majority of my contributions have come from friends or residents of Herndon, or Herndon business owners, and my volunteer base is friends, neighbors and high school students who need service hours.

9 — It's important to me that Herndon continues to be a hometown where everyone feels welcome and included, where families grow, businesses thrive, and people know their neighbors. I love to hear from residents and hope you'll stay in touch! Follow me on social media @MayorLisaMerkel or call me 571-449-7121 <http://www.herndon-va.gov/about-us/vision>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Please indicate what position on the Herndon Town Council for which you are completing this Question and Answer Survey.

Joseph Plummer

joe4herndon@gmail.com
Town Councilmember (2-year term)



1 — I believe Herndon can be a leader in the transition to a sustainable future. I want my hometown to pursue an ambitious sustainability agenda, and I believe my experience and education has prepared me to drive that conversation on the Town Council.

2 — I would've voted YES to passing the FY2019 Budget on time. At the April 24 budget meeting, I thought two councilmembers were irresponsible and sloppy when they attempted a political stunt in the 11th hour of the budget process.

3 — I think the Cigarette Tax could be increased to fill funding gaps for small sustainability projects. This would be a Pigouvian Tax, which means it would be taxing something that has significant negative externalities.

4 — This next term is going to be about the long-term vision of our Town. The Metro and the Downtown Development will happen in the next term. Both of those completed projects will contribute to the ever-increasing traffic in our Town. Also related are the increased capacity needs of Herndon public works including our energy, water, and waste systems. So, the top 2 priorities for me are traffic and public works. How are we going to address these? I believe we need to take on a sustainability mindset. Thinking about the long term sustainability of our Town will inform how we design and maintain our Town's infrastructure systems. That includes our transportation, energy, water, and waste systems.

5 — The build-out should be cross-sector effort that utilizes Federal, State, County, Town, Corporate, Foundation, and Individual support. The new Arts Center should

be operated by our local arts organizations.

6 — For the Boards, the Town Council can simply make sure to appoint diverse Boards. To make the Town Council more diverse, we need to find more diverse candidates. Voters should judge people on the content of their character and not the color of their skin. So, I think we should encourage more people to be candidates, and strive for a diverse Town Council while of course maintaining our high standards of character.

7 — Initially, I did seek the Fairfax County Democratic Committee's Endorsement. However, after realizing that McLean voters outside of Herndon were able to significantly influence the results of the endorsement, I decided to remove myself from the Fairfax County Democratic Committee and the associated endorsement process.

8 — I've received financial support from a number of Herndon voters. My volunteers are all friends and family.

9 — Check out my website at www.joe4herndon.org!

SEE MEET THE CANDIDATES. PAGE 6

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

‘Results vs. the Resistance’ or ‘Common-sense vs. Out-of-touch’?

Comstock and Wexton present stark choice for voters during first debate.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) charged directly at Democratic challenger Jennifer Wexton in her opening statement during the candidates’ first debate Friday, casting Wexton as “the most left-wing state senator” who “wants to represent the resistance and who threatens economic growth and tax cuts.”

Wexton, a former prosecutor and current state senator, shot back, calling Comstock a “political chameleon” who “paints herself as a bipartisan problem-solver” but “won’t stand up for her constituents” against President Donald Trump.

“I fear how much damage can be done by this President and the Congress that enables him,” Wexton said, emphasizing her bipartisan work in the Virginia legislature.

The 90-minute debate, organized by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce and held in the National Conference Center ballroom in Leesburg, was attended by a record crowd of 550 members.

Frequently punctuated by applause and whistles from supporters on both sides of the aisle, the debate was the first faceoff in one of the most closely watched congressional races in the nation.

VIRGINIA’S 10TH Congressional District has been held by a Republican for 38 years, but Democrats believe demographic shifts in the sprawling district — which include sections of Fairfax and Prince William counties and all of Loudoun County — and growing opposition to President Trump, will lead to a Democratic victory. In the 2016 election, Trump lost the district by 10 percentage points while Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, won the district by double digits in 2017.

Wexton has a record of bipartisan success in Richmond, where she passed more than 40 bills while in the minority.

But Comstock’s supporters say she has demonstrated her ability to successfully navigate politics in the “Age of Trump” through her relentless campaigning, fast and furious fundraising, hands-on mastery of local issues and personal connections to people in her district.

“If there is a ribbon cutting or picnic, you can bet Barbara will be here,” said Loudoun County developer David Garmand, who attended Friday’s debate. “She sticks to what’s important to the average business person.”

Sidestepping direct support for Trump, Comstock credited her party for low unemployment, economic growth, increased defense spending and GOP tax cuts, saying those have benefitted Loudoun County.

“These are results to celebrate, not resist,” Comstock said, to loud applause.

Comstock broke with Trump, however, on the key issue of imposing tariffs on U.S.



U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) responds to questions from Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce panelists during 90-minute debate Sept. 21, at the National Conference Center in Leesburg while her challenger, state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33) looks on.

goods, declaring herself a “free trader” who has always “opposed tariffs.”

Wexton agreed that tariffs hurt Virginia farmers and businesses. “President Trump needlessly and recklessly imposed tariffs that are hurting Americans,” Wexton said. Regarding the administration sending bailout checks to farmers, Wexton said “They don’t want a bailout from the government. They want to sell their goods on the open market.”

As with their shared opposition to the tariffs, the candidates mirrored one another on several other issues.

Both said they oppose Congressional moves to expand service at Reagan National Airport at the expense of Dulles International Airport, which is located in the district. Both agreed that the opioid epidemic is a serious public health problem, and that addicts need to be treated, not just punished. Both expressed opposition to President Trump’s proposed freeze on the pay of federal workers, thousands of whom call the 10th District home.

But when the candidates addressed immigration reform, the debate took a heated turn.

Comstock and Wexton both said they supported comprehensive immigration reform, including the expansion of programs enabling tech businesses to bring in skilled immigrants to fill cyber jobs.

“I do support having additional immigra-

tion,” Comstock said. “But it needs to be legal and in a fair system. I have supported increasing H1B visas so we can get those high-quality workers.”

“We need to address our immigration challenges in a bipartisan and comprehensive way,” Wexton said, “but President Trump’s divisive rhetoric and policies are only making that more difficult. Immigration is vitally important to our Northern Virginia economy; we have many tech businesses that rely on H1B visas and we have over 30,000 unfilled cyber jobs here in Virginia. Our farmers rely on seasonal immigrant laborers, and we need to make sure that they have them.”

Wexton added that Republicans, who have controlled Congress for years, “have sat on their hands and put kids in cages.” Her comment drew loud and sustained cheers and boos from supporters of each candidate, prompting an “order please” request from the event moderator.

DIFFERENCES between the candidates were also sharply defined on the GOP’s tax reform bill passed last year. Wexton called it the “Trump-Comstock Tax Scam” which she said gives 80 percent of tax cut benefits to the wealthiest one percent of taxpayers and increases the annual deficit by a trillion dollars, instead of helping middle-class families. Comstock said she wanted to expand personal tax cuts and pursue more



State Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33) shakes hands with U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) at the end of the candidates’ first debate Sept. 21, at the National Conference Center in Leesburg. The candidates are vying for Virginia’s 10th Congressional District seat.

small business tax cuts.

While both candidates touted their work supporting funding for the Metro system, Wexton said Comstock’s proposals for Metro were so extreme they have failed to earn the support of any other members of Congress in the region. Wexton sharply criticized Comstock for voting against Metrorail’s Silver Line expansion, “but that didn’t stop her from showing up at the ribbon cutting.”

The candidates also split over the Affordable Care Act. Comstock said “Obamacare was a totally partisan bill,” calling it “deeply flawed.” She said she did not support repeal, but instead would seek to fix the problems “piece by piece.”

Wexton said there were steps the federal government could take to improve the system, but that “access to quality affordable healthcare is a right for all, not a privilege of the few” and that the Medicaid expansion she helped pass was providing “access to affordable healthcare to 400,000 needy Virginians.”

In their closing statements, the candidates reiterated their campaign rhetoric:

“My record is one of getting results on your priorities with results, not resistance,” Comstock said.

“[Republicans’] actions show that they have no interest in real solutions, only sabotage. Unlike them, when I go to Congress, I’ll work across the aisle to find real solutions,” Wexton said.

OPINION

How We Can Bring Criminal Fine Reform to Fairfax County

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK
(R-BRADDOCK)



Criminal justice reform is about making sure that the criminal justice system achieves its goals and works equally for everyone. One issue being examined is whether assessing traffic and court fines and costs, regardless of ability to pay, and then punishing those who do not pay, is achieving any desired goal. Court fines and fees can be assessed for criminal or traffic offenses, such as speeding or parking violations. When someone receives a ticket or is ordered to pay a fine for an infraction, they also have to pay court and processing fees. This system is in place to deter people from committing these crimes, and also as a way to reimburse the cost of expenses associated with processing the cases and pay back to society for the cost of any damage caused by their actions.

For some, paying fines is not a problem. For others who are struggling to get by, it may be difficult or impossible to pay. The penalties for failing to pay fines and fees end up having a much greater impact on those in poverty than the rest of the population. If someone cannot pay their fine or traffic ticket, penalties for non-payment increase the amounts they could not pay in the first place. Overdue fines often go to collection agencies and the mountain of debt grows even higher, since a 17 percent collection fee can be added on to

the existing balance.

Compounding the issue is that if someone fails to pay their fines, the state can take their driver's license away. The Legal Aid Justice Center found in January that almost one million (974,349) Virginians had their licenses suspended due to unpaid fines and other charges. Two-thirds of that group (638,003) had their licenses suspended solely because of unpaid fines. When the courts suspend driver's licenses for unpaid fines, those individuals are not able to legally drive to work. Many people choose to drive illegally on their suspended licenses so they do not lose their income. If they are caught, then even more legal fees are added to their debt and some have to serve jail time. This vicious cycle makes it impossible for the courts to ever collect their fines and for those who owe to meet their obligations. It also means that people are pushed out of jobs and potentially into applying for government benefits.

Fortunately, in Fairfax County there are several programs to help individuals avoid these escalating penalties. Defendants can enter into a monthly payment plan with a down payment due at the time of their conviction. If a monthly payment is missed, then the defendant will go into default, which could result in additional fines and/or jail time. Another option is to

defer the entire payment until a later date. Defendants may also be eligible for the Fines Option Program, which allows defendants to perform community service in lieu of paying fines and fees. Those who sign up for this option go to the Magistrate's office on a Saturday morning, sign in, and take a bus to the George Mason University campus to perform tasks such as picking up litter, landscaping, or painting. Work hours are credited at the rate of \$15 an hour toward payment of fines.

While we have some remarkable programs to assist those who cannot afford to pay off their fines, many people still fall through the cracks. We need to implement a new system to help determine a person's ability to pay before they go to trial. The judge and clerk's office need the ability to set fines that can actually be paid. We need further opportunities for the alternative of assigning community service with more flexible schedules for those who cannot make the Saturday morning sessions.

Fine reform cannot truly take place without significant changes by the General Assembly. However, the County can help in the process by assisting the courts in bolstering their programs and making them more effective. We defeat the purpose of fines if we cause people to lose their jobs and the ability to support their families. Alternatives are important to a more just system.

Almost one million Virginians have had their licenses suspended due to unpaid court fines and other charges.

Celebrating with Understanding

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



Next year will be the quadricentennial — four hundred years — of important events happening in Virginia in 1619. Those events are not the rah-rah kind of happenings that are too often recognized with simple merriment. They are not examined for what we can learn from whence we came to understand how we got to where we are. The English established their first permanent colony in what became America in 1607; they did not "discover" America. There were an estimated 50,000 residents on the North American continent when the English bumped into the continent on their way to the riches of the Far East. The Spanish had visited the mid-Atlantic region decades before the English arrived but did not stick around for they found no gold or fountain of youth.

The indigenous people living in what the English named Virginia had a form of government in a confederation under the Great Chief Powhatan, an agricultural system, environmental protection, and a religion based on the natu-

ral spirits. They resented the people showing up in great ships and booming guns and taking land on which their forbearers had lived for as many as 15,000 years. There should be no surprise that the indigenous people begrudged these illegal immigrants coming and taking their land and responded with what some people called savagery.

Joining the new settlers at the community they called Jamestowne in 1619 were an essential component of keeping a community thriving into the future — women.

Just in time for the 2019 celebration, the Women's Commission has construction underway for a monument celebrating the contributions of women in making Virginia thrive. Not a bit too soon!

Women were invited to join the men at Jamestowne to help start a new life in a new world.

Not invited to join the white men and women were the enslaved Africans who were dropped off at Jamestowne without their consent and with an indentured servant agreement that could never be paid off. The enslaved Africans

in 1619 were the first that would be brought to the colony to work in the tobacco fields and to do the hard labors without any of the benefits a new start in life was supposed to bring.

The relationship between the white and black populations in Virginia were to dominate so much of the history of the state to the senseless killings of the Civil War and the complexities of race relations today.

In 1619 representatives of the plantations in the colony of Virginia met together in the mud-dab constructed church in Jamestowne to form a local government, much like a homeowner's association, because the real power of governance continued to reside in London. That meeting is celebrated as the first meeting of representative government tracing its beginning in 1619 through the Revolutionary War, with a slight deviation of the Civil War, to today.

Please keep up with the celebrations for next year by visiting the website of <https://www.americanrevolution2019.com/> or watch for announcements of events in my electronic newsletter, *Virginia E-News*, available by free subscription (sign up at kenplum.com). In our celebrations, let's continue to critically examine where we are in light of where we have been.

Oak Hill & Herndon
CONNECTION

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The Herndon High School Band leads Homecoming Parade 2018, Saturday, Sept. 22.

Town Rallies in Pride

Herndon High School Homecoming Parade 2018, more than a marching band, prom court and floats.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

“This is a warmth I haven’t felt in such a long time. People, families and children are gathering on the sidewalks, lawns and porches to cheer and support each other for today’s Herndon Homecoming Parade 2018. This event reminds you what’s really important. Social connections,” said Les Zidel, Town of Herndon resident.

Saturday, Sept. 22 marked the Herndon High School Homecoming Parade 2018. Costumes, banners and floats portrayed this year’s theme, “Under the Big Top.”

Although homecoming parades are generally thought of as events for students, families, alumni and friends to rally together and sup-

Award Winners

Civic Group

First Place-Girl Scouts Service Unit 51-9, Second Place – Cub Scouts Pack 1577

Performing Arts Group

First Place-Rhythm Street Dancers, Second Place – Herndon High Step Team

School Group

First Place – Clearview Elementary, Second Place – Hutchison Elementary School

Show Group

First Place – Herndon Optimists Youth Sports, Second Place – Herndon Woman’s Club Wreaths Across America

Class Floats

First Place – Herndon HS Junior Class of 2020, Second Place – Herndon High School Freshmen Class of 2022

Richard F. Downer Theme Award

Herndon High School Senior Class of 2019

Major Robert C. Church Award

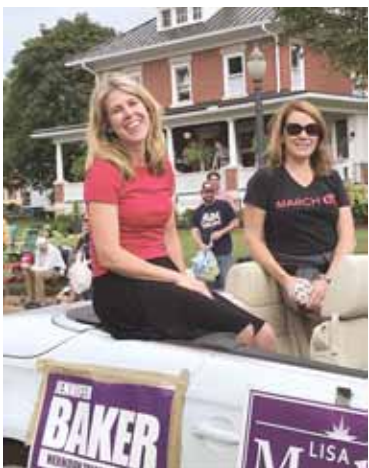
Best in Parade – Herndon Elementary School

port the school before the big game, in the Town of Herndon the annual parade is much more. Herndon High School may be one of the threads that course through the town, but it is the community,

the local scouts, athletes, elementary school students, members of local organizations and businesses, and politicians who add the other strands of fiber to create the fabric of the Town of Herndon. And it is that, the community, new residents and established, less than one “Big Top” which reverberated throughout the town.

This year, the Homecoming parade ran the entire length of the town’s main avenue, Elden Street. Spectators stood three to four deep in some areas. Porch parties attracted more than seventy-five attendees at given homes along the route. “Fifty-eight units and well over 1,300 participants marched in the parade,” reported Abby Kimble, marketing specialist for the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department.

After the parade, the action moved onto the football field at 1 p.m. for the Homecoming football game where the Osbourn Park Yellow Jackets beat the Herndon Hornets 21-14.



As spectators look on, Herndon Mayor Lisa C. Merkel (right) and Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker ride in style during Herndon Homecoming Parade 2018.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) gives thumbs up to spectators on the other side of Elden Street during the Herndon High School Homecoming Parade 2018 held Saturday, Sept. 22.

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prsinc.org/calltextlive

TOWN ELECTION

Meet the Candidates for Mayor, Herndon Town Council

FROM PAGE 2

Jennifer Baker

Baker4herndon@gmail.com
Town Councilmember



1 — I've lived in Herndon for 14 years and I have been honored to serve on Council for the past 4 years. I'm running again because I love this community and I want to see Herndon continue to thrive. I have the experience, energy and commitment needed to serve.

2 — I voted to approve the current budget. The town staff and Council discuss our Town's finances throughout the year and in great detail from January - April. I think the FY19 budget was the right balance of providing the services expected without raising the real estate tax rates.

3 — Being a good steward of our tax dollars is one of the most important responsibilities I have as a Council member. If we need more revenue to balance a future budget or for a unique funding request, then I would consider carefully how to make adjustments, including raising taxes or fees.

4 — We need to continue to work with Comstock Partners to make the downtown development plan a reality. Building an Arts Center in the core of our downtown will be a unique differentiator for Herndon's future. It will also bring new residents, retail and businesses while maintaining our historic charm. The Arts Center will be a destination spot for visitors from around the region. Second, we should continue to work with the existing land owners in the 38 acre zone immediately surround-

ing our future Silver Line Metro station. This area will be the most densely developed of any part of Herndon's 4.2 square miles and will be an economic driver for the Town.

5 — We requested and will receive \$1.2 million in funding from Fairfax County to build the Arts Center. The rest of the funds should be a combination of Town taxes and grants. Ideally, it should be run by an arts organization(s) with oversight by the Town.

6 — There's always opportunity for more citizen engagement, and I would like to see these bodies better reflect our community. Recent investments in the Town's website and building a mobile application (Herndon on the Go) was a first step in improving outreach to all Town residents. We've improved the online application process to help us identify more people. I serve as the lead for the interview committee and I'm eager to meet with new candidates who

7 — I sought the Democratic endorsement and was recommended, but pulled my request before it came to a vote. This endorsement allows a small number of people, many who live outside the Town, to have an oversized influence on voting decisions for Herndon and that's not good for democracy.

8 — My neighbors hosted a fundraiser for me in April and where I received donations from Town residents and friends. I'm spending my free time between now and Nov. 6, knocking on doors and talking to residents. I'd welcome volunteers who want to walk with me.

9 — Herndon is a small town, with a big heart. I'm proud to represent this town and what we've accomplished to make it a hometown for everyone. I welcome your suggestions as I knock on your door or anytime. Please follow me on Facebook @jbakerva or contact me baker4herndon@gmail.com or 571-306-2173.

William "Bill" J. McKenna

(on the Ballot)

bill4herndon@gmail.com
<https://www.billmckenna.net>
Town Councilmember
(2-year term)



rating with low debt and a timely submission of budget to the Commonwealth was key so we can borrow in the future and save money on interest payments.

3 — I do not support any tax or fee increase raised as a last minute concern, especially if we worked on the budget for months, by which time council should have an understanding of

what was reviewed. I am willing to review our bottom line and to see where revenues are.

4 — We have to work on providing multiple options for getting around town to reduce the burden on our roads. In process are circulator buses and walking/biking paths to Metro from Herndon North of the Toll Road. We also have to increase our sewer and water capacities to meet the demand with Metro coming and we have to

do so without affecting already provided services and keeping our tax rates stable. These need to be addressed while keeping residents in the loop.

5 — I am smart enough to know that my input is not based on a working knowledge of this issue. I believe having input from our Arts groups in town, consultants and residents will give us the Arts Center we aspire to.

6 — I have been extremely proactive on this front and have been working with diversified areas to get them involved and informed. I have requested several newly identified people be appointed to our boards and commissions. I have also engaged residents concerned with our boards and commissions. Through my focus group discussions, I have found people wanting to sign up and participate.

7 — Originally, I did seek the endorsement

of the FCDC but after consulting former council members, public comments at council meetings, townspeople and others I respect in and around Herndon, I withdrew my consideration to focus on the issues of Herndon

8 — My support is 100 percent grassroots. It is across all political, economic and diversity backgrounds and 100 percent visible on my website. (Bottom of the Page, Click on Friends of Bill McKenna and it will take you to my campaign committee page) I have nothing to hide. Funds raised outside Herndon are close friends of mine spanning my entire life.

9 — I have worked to bring the youth of this town into government with the Herndon Youth Advisory Council. This is a truly diverse group of young people working for a better tomorrow. I congratulate them on wanting to be a part of something bigger than themselves, what service should be about.

Sheila A. Olem

saolem@gmail.com
Town Councilmember (2-year term)



1 — To see the metro & downtown redevelopment, with Arts Center completed. My experience includes many county regional land use task force committees, 7 years on the Board of Zoning Appeals and 8 years on Town Council and Board member of 2 local Arts organizations. Please see my bio sheilaolem.com.

2 — No. At April 24th hearing myself and one other member asked to continue the hearing to the next public hearing (May 8) so more discussion could take place due to concerns of myself and others. Our deadline is June 30 each year, we had time.

3 — Yes. If the cost of running the town and providing the services we expect and

depend on goes up. At the Sept. 4th work session it was suggested by a councilmember we cut the Spring & Fall clean ups to save funds. I don't agree with cutting services.

4 — With the arrival of Metro and the Downtown Redevelopment, Parking and Traffic will be challenges for residents and businesses. Our staff can start the process by contacting other communities in NoVA to study permit parking in neighborhoods that will be impacted. Also start a citizens & local business advisory committee for the areas near the future Metro to get the community involved in the process and make sure their concerns are addressed. Stepping up improvements for walking and biking in the entire town. The W&OD trail is great but getting there is not. Visible Cross Walks such as such as the ones on Alabama Dr. between Elden and Van Buren are excellent for traffic calming, while crossing Spring St. between Elden and

Van Buren is very scary. Feeling safe will keep people walking. We need to put up signage to "share the road and bike racks all over town.

5 — The town will own the Center and should be responsible for the physical plant which will be a town asset. One or more nonprofits should run programs & services. They will also promote the economic vitality of the downtown and seek community input for the success of the facility.

6 — One of the biggest obstacles to getting anyone involved on our Boards and Commissions is time. The other is making sure town volunteers feel their involvement matters. If you are reading this please, step up, ask your friends and neighbors to do the same. Our town is only as good as the citizens that get involved in our governance. The Town of Herndon Needs You. Email — CouncilMemberOlem@gmail.com for an application.

7 — Yes, and I seek the endorsement of

all civic groups that are interested in the betterment of the town. I have been recommended for the Fairfax Democratic Committee endorsement by the Dranesville District Democratic Committee.

8 — As a longtime member of the Fairfax Democratic Committee I have helped numerous candidates over the years. (Foust, Herring, Northam, Fairfax, Wexton, Boysko). The support I receive is from the many people I have worked with over the years, do not expect to receive any cash support from the 'committee'.

9 — Our citizens should feel their involvement matters. This inclusion will cultivate and inspire in our community to work with council and staff to constantly improve the place we live, work and play and have grown to love. Want to chat? Contact me for Coffee or Tea. CouncilMemberOlem@gmail.com

TOWN ELECTION

Meet the Candidates for Mayor, Herndon Town Council

Cesar del Aguila

cesar4herndon@gmail.com
Candidate for Town
Councilmember (2-year term)



1 — Like many citizens, my parents came to America for a better life. Given this opportunity, I have achieved personal success and held executive leadership positions within innovative companies. I am running because we deserve transparency, integrity, inclusiveness, and kindness on our council. I hope to move us in this direction.

2 — Rather than short statements at the podium, with little give and take, there should be informal work sessions where citizens can help set objectives and recommendations. I would have worked harder with colleagues to better understand their desired outcomes and avoid the public frustration demonstrated by a

few council members.

3 — Real estate and personal property taxes are off the table. Too many residents live on tight budgets. We must actively solicit input from the whole town to make decisions that are transparent and represent the views of a broad cross section of Herndon residents. My goal: fair, effective, representative decision-making.

4 — Most everyone in Herndon is drawn together by the relatively close-knit neighborhoods reminding us of the benefits of a small town. As metro encourages new development and our downtown fills in, we face the challenge of balancing this economic growth with a renewed commitment to retain our spirit of community. The second challenge is how to involve all our residents, from many backgrounds, into constructive engagement in the affairs of our Town. Through our civic, recreational, and cultural

organizations we need to embrace all our families with opportunities to benefit from living in this wonderful diverse Town.

5 — Like other facilities in Herndon, the Town should own and maintain the physical structure as a line item in the budget. The responsibility of programming should be owned by the non-profit organizations. These non-profits can solicit volunteers, grants and donations. This is the way the Art Center was initially proposed.

6 — A town council that actively seeks input from all Herndon residents will build bridges into the community. Representative diversity has long been an issue; many citizens feel removed from government. One possible solution would be to create a temporary diversity ad-hoc committee. This group would be dedicated to developing an outreach process and making researched recommendations to the council. We can be the inclusive, representative Council Herndon deserves, but we must work toward that.

7 — Yes, as did all elected members of the Council. I earned the recommendation of the local Democratic Party. The endorsement was sought after tirelessly by all and no objections were made. Agreements and pledges were signed by everyone involved. The recommendation is being considered by the county committee.

8 — So far, I have self-funded my election, however, I may take donations in the future. I will not accept funds from developers. I think it is a conflict of interest and council members that have received donations from developer should recuse themselves from voting on development issues facing the town.

9 — I want integrity and independent thinking, to invite conversations from more citizens who might have new ideas. I want to hear alternate opinions. Only then will we get a complete picture of how to serve our whole community. When no one goes out to listen, many voices are never heard.

Signe Friedrichs

Herndon Town Council
Candidate
SigneforHerndon@gmail.com



1
❖ Serving fellow citizens
❖ Town resident, homeowner, taxpayer for over 20 years
❖ Work/volunteer: Virginia Municipal League Cities and Towns Committee, Fairfax County Economic Advisory Committee, Rotary, Herndon Festival Committee, Town Economic Development Advisory Committee, Arts Herndon/Council for the Arts of Herndon, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, Member Relations Manager

2
❖ Voted for the Town Budget in April, two months early
❖ Made multiple requests for extra time to consider the budget because of citizen concerns, was turned down multiple times
❖ Town record of budgeting conservatively made me willing to vote in favor despite wishing more time

3
❖ No need for tax increase at this time
❖ Careful planning will keep taxes at current rate

4 — Among our biggest concerns are redevelopment and managing growth.

When Downtown redevelopment begins, the town faces some years of construction, affecting businesses and decreasing visits to the historic town center unless managed carefully. One possibility is working with Placemaking and Arts Organizations to keep the downtown a desirable destination so that our restaurants do not experience a downturn.

Managing growth is a difficult task. Water and Sewer are the biggest costs; these will be borne by developers and new residents over time. The Town is purchasing capacity now because of the anticipated scarcity and increased future costs. Attention to sustainability will allow for ease of biking and walking to metro and the Downtown, taking some of the

burden off roads and parking structures.

5 — The Town is building the Arts Center which it will own. The president of Arts Herndon, in conjunction with Town Staff, identified and solicited funds from the county for the buildout. Center should be run by nonprofits and pay for at least 75% of operating costs, like the community center.

6 — Please ask your friends and neighbors to sign up at the Town Website to volunteer their services. Our town has a robust community which I believe arises from a culture of volunteerism. For our community to truly function for all, we need to bring everyone to the table. This is not easy because of economic and cultural barriers. I encourage residents to reach out and help their neighbors get involved. (75)

7 — I sought the endorsement of the local democratic committee. I was recommended to be endorsed. I welcome any further endorsements but am not actively seeking them. The endorsement I really care about comes from the residents.

8 — I am receiving small donations from friends and neighbors, some of whom also volunteer. I am keeping my costs low so that fundraising is not a focus of my campaign. Of course, I welcome further donations!

9 — I am pleased that the conversation

in Herndon is open to:

- ❖ Smart development
- ❖ Affordable housing
- ❖ Blight
- ❖ Sustainability
- ❖ Parking
- ❖ Dementia training, autism training and

compassionate policing

- ❖ Maintenance of infrastructure outside the town center
 - ❖ Density
 - ❖ Litter
- To maintain a healthy community culture we need to be open to new solutions.

Grace Wolf Cunningham

Grace4herndon@gmail.com
Town Councilmember (2-year term)



1 — I am a 4 term incumbent, running for a fifth to continue progress on Metro, Downtown, attracting business, improving quality of life, increasing inclusiveness; and fiscal responsibility — my platform since 2010. MBA, BA Cornell University, entrepreneur, mom, Virginia Commissioner for the Arts, past president Council for the Arts of Herndon

2 — I voted YES on the FY19 budget - the combination of revenue and how taxpayer dollars are spent are correctly allocated. Most of the budget goes toward salaries, equipment and the current year's share of our Capital Improvement Project. I am happy with the amount of grants for our nonprofits.

3 — I do not support any tax increases. If needed for investments in infrastructure to support Metro or Downtown Redevelopment, I would consider a small increase to our BPOL or Meals tax. I do not support raising real estate or personal property taxes as residential values are increasing quickly already.

4 — Preparing and investing in infrastructure (roads, utilities, police, etc) for Metro and Downtown while keeping taxes as low as possible, minimizing traffic and preserving our small town feel. With a gap between when money is spent and recouped, we need

to conservatively budget spending, issue bonds and attract new businesses to protect residential and small business tax payers. Traffic management, green spaces, cultural enrichment and alternate modes of transportation will be my focus areas.

5 — The Town has already approved \$2.5MM in our Capital Improvement Program for the buildout — entirely funded by taxpayers. An additional \$1MM has been pledged by Fairfax County. Operation of the Art Center should be competitively bid out via the RFP process to ensure the best operator and return on investment

7 — Increased outreach is key and educating our community as to why representation is important. Our application and website should be available in their language for our 2-3 largest bi-lingual communities. I spearheaded a similar project for Fairfax County for voter registration. We need to increase partnerships with civic groups, non profits, churches, and mosques to continue to attract diverse applicants. Advertising in print, social media and radio to attract diversity in appointments.

7 — I am not endorsed by either party, instead I am endorsed by every elected official that serves the Town of Herndon —

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 12

FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: “Peace and Identity.” Through Oct. 23, gallery hours at the Waddell Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College Loudoun Campus, 21200 Campus Drive, Sterling. This League of Reston Artists exhibit of two-dimensional art and photography runs Sept. 23-Oct. 23 with an opening reception Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6 p.m. This is Phase II of a two-part project that began in the spring of 2018. Free admission. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. Meets Mondays, May through October, at Pavilion at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Free fitness classes presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. Call 571-267-5000 or visit crunchreston.com Facebook.com/CrunchReston.

Mr. Knick Knack! 10:30-11:15 a.m. May through October. At Reston Town Square Park. Free performances of heart-centered music for children. No performance on Columbus Day. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/events.

Art Exhibit. Through Nov. 24, gallery hours at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite #103, Reston. The Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) presents Green is the Secret Color to Make Gold, a solo exhibition exploring themes of daily routine and ritual featuring new work by DC-based artist Caitlin Teal Price. Visit restonarts.org.

Reston Farmers Market. Open Saturdays, through Dec. 1, 8 a.m.-noon at 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Fairfax County Park Authority markets are strictly producer-only meaning that vendors must grow or make from scratch everything they bring to market. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Homegrown Yoga. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Alison Adams is bringing Homegrown Yoga to ArtSpace Herndon. All levels welcome. Drop in and take a class. \$25 two week unlimited pass or drop-in available. Visit www.homegrownpoweryoga.com to sign up.

The Elden Street Tea Shop. Saturdays in ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sip tea and enjoy a variety of locally made snacks and pastries while enjoying the latest art installations in the gallery. Visit www.eldenstreettea.com.

Small Business Support Sundays. Visit independent stores and restaurants, and those that support small businesses at Reston Town Center, offering specials, discounts, tastings, and localized treats every Sunday. Visit SmallBusinessSupportSundays.com.

All-comers’ Group Fun Run. Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Potomac River Running, 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 or visit www.potomacriverrunning.com/reston/.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email



The Bad Plus performing at CenterStage, Reston Community Center.

PHOTO BY
SHERVIN LAINEZ
COURTESY OF RESTON
COMMUNITY CENTER

New Season at CenterStage Distinctive jazz stylizations of The Bad Plus.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With announcement of its upcoming 2018-19 CenterStage professional touring artist season, the Reston Community Center continues to enrich lives and build community as a core mission. The forthcoming professional touring artist series has a diverse mix of performances to whet appetites for the exceptional and diverse in live entertainment.

“The Professional Touring Artist Series at Reston Community Center (RCC) kicks off with an exciting and eclectic trio of events.” The Bad Plus brings you searing jazz with a Rock and Roll sensibility, LGBTQ activist Armistead Maupin will delight you with hysterical reflections on his game-changing book and film “Tales From The City” and Robert Sapolsky will discuss his illuminating research on the neurobiology of behavior,” said Paul Michnewicz, RCC arts and entertainment director.

“I don’t think you will find artists as diverse and as timely anywhere else.” added Michnewicz. “Don’t miss these season openers or any of the sensational performances throughout the year at the CenterStage.”

“I am so happy to bring The Bad Plus to debut the Professional Touring Artist Series. Their music is fascinating; their personalities are extraordinary. I know you will love them,” noted Michnewicz.

The Bad Plus performance is titled “Never Stop II;” the name of the trio’s just released album. The

group is a piano-bass-drums trio, noted for being passionate collaborators. The trio is pianist Orrin Evans, bassist Reid Anderson and drummer Dave King.

For those less familiar with The Bad Plus, they are an influential group noted for a fresh, jazz-funk infused style of music. The group is also noted for cross musical genre boundaries to explore all the infinite possibilities of musical notes. The trio has a legion of fans worldwide. Not long after the Reston CenterStage performance, The Bad Plus heads off to Europe for several weeks. Than returns to perform at The Village Vanguard in New York City.

The trio’s recent album, “Never Stop II” is all original music with each member contributing new compositions. The album’s titles range from “Hurricane Birds,” “Safe Passage,” “Lean in the Archway,” and “Kerosene II,” to name a few of the nine numbers. They are songs without words in which each member of the trio takes a lead role.

One last tidbit about The Bad Plus. Known for a diverse music style, the trio had a breakout triumph with a high-spirited cover of Nirvana’s mega-hit “Smells Like Teen Spirit.”

Reston Community Center presents The

Bad Plus at Reston CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods Village Center, Reston, VA 20191 on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20; non-Reston Ticket Price: \$30. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

Where and When

Reston Community Center presents The Bad Plus at Reston CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods Village Center, Reston, VA 20191. Performance: Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20; for non-Reston Ticket Price: \$30. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

skeduman@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 26

Dog Days of Summer. 4-7 p.m. in the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion when it is transformed into an off-leash play area each week. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Reception: “Peace and Identity.” 6 p.m. at the Waddell Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College Loudoun Campus, 21200 Campus Drive, Sterling. This League of Reston Artists exhibit of two-dimensional art and photography runs Sept. 23-Oct. 23. This is Phase II of a two-part project that began in the spring of 2018. Free admission. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.
An Evening with Monica Hesse. 6

p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. National bestselling author of the true crime love story, “American Fire” and the Edgar Award-winning young adult historical mystery novel, “Girl in the Blue Coat,” Monica Hesse comes to Scrawl Books to discuss her new novel, “The War Outside.” All students interested in meeting the author are welcome and encouraged to join the conversation. Light

refreshments will be served, and an autographed copy of the book will be raffled off during the event. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 27-30

Library Book Sale. Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-3:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. More than 800 boxes of gently used books are just waiting to go home with some lucky new owners. No children’s books at this sale. Members’ night Wednesday, 5-8 p.m. Join, verify, or renew membership at the door. \$15 per household; \$5 for 65-and-over. Email RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 29

Pumpkin Decorating Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at The Goddard School, 2400 Dulles Town Blvd., Herndon. Enjoy a fun filled open house on with pumpkin decorating and other fun fall activities for children up to age 10 years old. Parents may tour The Goddard School and learn about their full- and part-time programs. Call 703-653-0337.

Runway to the Cure Fashion

Show. 6 p.m. at the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. The show, which will highlight designer fashions from sponsors, will also feature breast cancer survivors from the region who will serve as models and share their stories from illness to triumph. All proceeds will benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Visit www.komen.org/runway.

A Journey to Latin America. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at United Christian Parish of Reston, 11508 N. Shore Drive, Reston. A Journey to Latin America with The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington. \$5-\$30. Call 571-483-8444 or visit www.pacodec.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 30

Tri for Love Triathlon. 5:45 a.m. Join two time cancer survivor Taylor Love and friends and participate in the 12th Annual Tri for Love Triathlon. Tri for Love is an event for both rookie and veteran athletes; individual and team participation is welcome. Tri for Love begins at The Herndon Community Center with a 400 yard indoor swim, transitioning to a 15.4 mile W&OD Trail bike ride from Ferndale Drive to Ashburn Road and back. The event finishes with a 5k run in and around the W&OD bike and horse trail. Tri for Love Triathlon is USAT sanctioned. To register for Tri for Love Triathlon go to www.tri4love.shutterfly.com or email tri4love@hotmail.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 4

Meet the Artists. 2:15-3:40 p.m. at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Enjoy a free concert with Beverly Cosham, perennial favorite cabaret singer and entertainer, along with pianist and collaborator Howard Breitbart. Free. Call 703-503-3384 or visit olli.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/OCT. 6

Dog Paddle. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ridge Heights Pool, 11400 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Bring dogs for a final dip this season. Current Dog License required. Dogs must remain under control and sociable at all times or will be asked to leave without refund. Female dogs in heat are not permitted. Fees are per dog. Register online at www.restonwebtrac.org

FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



Yoga @ ArtSpace

Alison Adams is bringing Homegrown Yoga to ArtSpace Herndon. All levels welcome. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Drop in and take a class. \$25 two week unlimited pass or drop-in available. Visit homegrownpoweryoga.com to sign up.

Alison Adams of Homegrown Yoga.

CALENDAR

(\$8) or walk up (\$10) on the day.

YMCA Community Celebration. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at YMCA Fairfax County Reston, 12196 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. Free community grand re-opening. Everyone welcome. The celebration includes an open house and activities for children and adults of all ages. Tours, demonstrations, activities, giveaways, refreshments, and a new member special offer are scheduled. Call 703-742-8800 or visit www.ymcadc.org/locations/ymca-fairfax-county-reston/.

Flavors of Fall. Noon-11 p.m. at Reston Town Center. Savor the flavor of autumn brews and delicious fare from area restaurants. Enjoy food, wine, German and craft beers on tap, and live entertainment. Free admission; purchase tickets for food and beverages. Visit restonflavors.com.

Flavors of Fall Cornhole Experience. 1-5 p.m. on Library Street at Reston Town Center. The four-hour tournament features prize packages including travel, weekend get-aways, adventure, restaurants, and more. Register as an individual or a team. Sign up today as slots are limited using this special promo code: FlavorsCHTM for \$10 off team registrations. Call 703-707-9045 or visit RestonChamber.org.

Dance: "The Story of Our Lives." 7:30 p.m. at The CenterStage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Gin Dance Company, a performing arts modern dance company, presents 'The Story of Our Lives.' The audience will see the premiere of GDC Artistic Director Shu-Chen Cuff's newest work, 'We, The Moon, The Sun' – an Asian culturally influenced work blending Chinese Opera movements and modern dance. Also debuting is Shu-Chen's '200 Feet' inspired by author Jack Canfield's teachings. Visit gindance.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 7

Pumpkin 5K, & Kids' Pumpkin Dash. 8:15 a.m. at Reston Town Center. Get off the couch and get ready for the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce's Pumpkin 5K, & Kids' Pumpkin Dash. Participants are encouraged to debut their Halloween costumes and join in the fun with family, friends and corporate teams. Use promo code HealthyWorkPlace18 to save \$3 off adult registration. Visit restonflavors.com/reston-pumpkin-5k/.

2018 Arts Herndon Children's Literary Festival.

11 a.m.-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. In collaboration with local author, Kwame Alexander, The National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Herndon presents the first Arts Herndon Children's Literary Festival. A Newbery Medalist, Alexander founded the Capital BookFest in 2005, and has brought thousands of people year after year to various literary events. Panels and author conversations, featuring adult and teen authors; featuring food, live entertainment, authors and artisans; purchase books, illustrations, specialty artwork, and gifts; strolling entertainment and more. Free and open to the public. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/arts-herndon-childrens-literary-festival.

SUNDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 7-13

2018 Herndon's Arts Week – celebrating the arts in Herndon. With an event every day of the week and something for everyone it promises to be special. Bring the family out for the Children's Literary Festival or Kids Day at Frying Pan Farm Park. Have a night out with friends at a Jazz Concert, take a Swirladelic Design & Wine class or find out the winners of the 10th Annual Expressions Portrait Competition. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 11

Meet the Artists. 2:15-3:40 p.m. at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Enjoy a free concert with Peter Fraize, celebrated saxophonist, and The New Peter Fraize Quintet perform. Includes DC luminaries Paul Pieper (guitar), Jon Ozment (piano), Nathan Kawaller (bass), and Leland Nakamura (drums). Free. Call 703-503-3384 or visit olli.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

UCP Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. This juried fair showcases handcrafted products from area artists and crafters just in time for the holiday season. A bake sale and lunch will be available for purchase. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Herndon-Reston FISH, a local non-profit. Ample parking. Free. Email suemayn@msn.com.

IMPROVING ENGLISH

One-To-One English Conversation.

Mondays, 1 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Multiple one-on-one practice sessions with a volunteer are available each week. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Pre-Beginners. Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Beginners. Tuesdays 10-11 a.m. with Beth; Thursdays 10-11 a.m. with Genie; Fridays 10-11 a.m. with Ivan. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Intermediate. Mondays 10-11 a.m. with Rick; Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. with Susan; Wednesdays 2-3 p.m. with Sharoni. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Advanced. Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. with Richard; Fridays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with Mary. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Glory Days GRILL

Oktoberfest

Seasonal Selections

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THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

SENIOR LIVING

This special focus will include stories focusing on enhanced lifestyle for seniors among Connection readers and their families, including spiritual, physical, mental and financial well-being. Target the neighborhoods of the top suburban communities with the highest home values, incomes and spending power with many mature adults exploring their many opportunities. Showcase your products and services in this special focus section with the award-winning Connection Newspapers print and digital media.

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Announcements

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plus no daily commute
Help local businesses grow
Unique opportunity to be a
voice in your community
Competitive compensation
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Announcements

26th Annual Parade of Homes Oct. 4-7
Tour 24 Homes Corolla to Manteo
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NEWS

**Sen. Kaine
Comes to Town**

The Dulles Area Democrats hosted U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) at the Amphora Diner Deluxe in Herndon, Monday, Sept. 17 as guest speaker. Kaine discussed the upcoming November general election and current events in Congress. Afterward, Kaine took questions. Kaine is one of only 29 people in the United States who has been a mayor, a governor and a senator. During his presentation, Kaine noted that his favorite title is that of "Mayor." Pictured: Sen. Kaine with, from left, Jennifer Baker, Herndon Vice Mayor; Grace Wolf Cunningham, Herndon Town Councilmember; and Lisa C. Merkel, Herndon Mayor.



PHOTO BY CYRUS SOBHANI

Herndon Youth Advisory Council Meets

**Youth
Councilmembers
seek a teen
center, input,
social media con-
nections and ac-
tive service roles.**

BY BILL MCKENNA
HERNDON TOWN COUNCILMEMBER

As a Herndon Town Councilmember, I have the honor to oversee and chair the Herndon Youth Advisory Council (HYAC), now in its second year. The HYAC serves as a link between the Herndon Town Council, middle and high school principals, other adult leaders and youth. The Herndon Town Council appoints its members annually. Youth Councilmembers live in the Town of Herndon or attend classes at Herndon Middle or Herndon High schools. Their role is to advise the Herndon Town Council on activities, issues and decisions relating to youth, and advocate for legislation that caters to the interests and desires of the town's diverse youth population.

At the HYAC's first meeting of the 2018-2019 school year, held Thursday evening, Sept. 20, 2018, Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa C. Merkel introduced Councilmember Richard B. Kaufman who the Herndon Town Council appointed in July 2018, to fill a vacancy created following the death of Councilmember Jeff Davidson.

Merkel also provided updates on the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project, Metro Silver Line, and the Herndon High School Renovations and Additions Project.

As the Herndon Town



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left-top, Ian Nordling, Ankit Poudel, Laura Evans, Lucy Brown, Katie Evans, Claire Jones, Tea Geary, Lila Merkel (guest), Katie Grover (new appointee), Kade Cralle; Second row, floor, Herndon Councilmembers Richard Kaufman and Bill McKenna, HYAC Chair and founder, Mayor Lisa C. Merkel and Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs gather in the Herndon Town Council Chambers for the first meeting of the 2018-2019 Herndon Youth Advisory Council. Not pictured, Kenton Moore, Andrew Freeman, Zachary Skalaban and Piper Luczak (new appointee).

Councilmember charged with the HYAC oversight, I reviewed the status of last year's projects initiated by the 2017-2018 Herndon Youth Advisory Council. Proposed projects included a Teen Center at the Herndon Community Center, a greater voice in after-school programs at the Middle School level and the creation of a Buddy System with seniors, so students could "hang out or study."

I announced that last year's HYAC provided input attesting to the need for a place for teens to gather, as Youth Councilmembers had identified there are not many places young teens can go in the Town of Herndon and not spend money.

I also reviewed that I had met with "A. J." Fuller, After School Program Specialist at Herndon Middle School to help students build a bridge between themselves and local government ensuring they have a greater voice in the proposed planning of after-school programs.

Finally, I told how I had met with representatives at Herndon Harbor House, a residential community where seniors with moderate in-

comes pursue active lifestyles. I reminded the Youth Councilmembers that last year, they sought to be part of a "Buddy System" and visit the seniors who lived at Harbor House and do things with them such as play board games or chat.

Youth Councilmembers then discussed wanting to have a communication presence on social media. This would allow other middle and high school students to know what they were doing, and more importantly, communicate with them so that they could ask questions and participate not only in the process but serve in volunteer roles as well.

Reverend Stephen Smith-Cobbs at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon gave a presentation about community outreach programs his organization had been doing. One program is LINK Against Hunger, a 501 (c)(3) charity organization that supplies emergency food to people within the Herndon, Sterling, and Ashburn communities. Youth Councilmembers asked questions about volunteering, especially around the holidays.

BULLETIN

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

THROUGH DECEMBER

White House Ornaments. Assistance League of Northern Virginia has begun its annual fundraising sale of White House Ornaments. The 2018 ornament honors Harry S. Truman, highlighting changes made to the White House during his administration. One side features the Truman Balcony and the reverse features the Blue Room. Assistance League is an all volunteer, non-profit organization. Proceeds benefit our community-based programs that support local low income children. \$22 (+ shipping if mail delivery required). Email burgessgl@verizon.net or visit www.alnv.org.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND ID EVENTS

The Fairfax County Office of Elections (12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323, Fairfax) is open daily during normal business hours to provide county residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. Applicants will need to complete a photo voter ID application, have a photo taken and sign a digital signature pad. Call 703-222-0776.

The following special events will also provide opportunity to register to vote and/or get a photo Virginia Voter card.

♦ Wednesday/Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St #1, Herndon.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking to expand its team of volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide, now in its 51st year, offers free in-person preparation and assistance to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who can't afford a tax preparation service. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by assisting many older, lower-income taxpayers, and their families, who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they've earned. To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).

THROUGH SEPT. 28

Preference Poll. The Reston Community Center (RCC) Board of Governors announces five candidates for its 2018 Preference Poll. This year's candidates are incumbents William G. Bouie, Gerald Zavala and Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt, as well as new candidates Richard Stillson and April Tan. The poll seeks community guidance to fill three 3-year positions. Each property in Small District 5 (SD5) will receive a ballot in the mail. Mail-in ballots must be received by the counting agent (a pre-addressed envelope is provided with the ballot; postage is required) no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. Walk-in and online ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 26

How to Attract Employees. 8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. Diana Waller of Chasing Dragons will present on ways small to medium size companies can differentiate themselves in this job market. Call 703-707-9045 or visit www.restonchamber.org

2018 Virginia Senatorial Debate. 5-8 p.m. at Capital One Bank. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) and Chairman Corey Stewart (R), Chuck Todd of NBC's Meet The Press, will moderate, televised live on NBC4.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 27

Hurricane Relief Drive. Donation items due by Thursday, Sept. 27 to National Realty, 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive. Open 9-5. My Guys Moving and National Realty have teamed up for a "Fill the Truck" Hurricane Florence Relief Drive. Consider donating toiletries, baby formula, water, cleaning supplies, diapers, non-perishable foods, baby wipes, pet food and supplies, blankets, socks, batteries, and clothes. Email keithhartke@gmail.com or paulhartke22@gmail.com for more.

Tips for Communicating with Dementia. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, Pre-Opening Showroom, 2254B Hunters Woods Village Shopping Center, Reston. Free to all who support and care for those with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Caregivers and professionals welcome. A light lunch will be provided. Space is limited. RSVP to cnickel@integracare.com or 703-708-4047.

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Woe I'll Never Be



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not on hold with the Oncology department today. Not elbowing Twinkle or Biscuit off my writing tablet as I sit and write this week's column. And not going hungry from the previous Friday's infusion (a week plus has passed so the worst side effect of the treatment has passed).

In general, aside from waiting for my upcoming CT scan on Sept. 26, I am glad that soon I can get on with my life.

You'll note I didn't say fate. That word has too negative a connotation. And my nature, as you regular readers know, is as a positive/glass half full kind of person. So, as I approach this next milestone, I view it not so much as a millstone but more so as just another rock that hopefully leaves me not in a very hard place.

The pre-existing cancer diagnosis is already hard enough. But after living with it for so long and enduring as many rounds of chemotherapy, side effects, lab work, diagnostic scans, 24-hour urine collection and all the associated anxiety surrounding a "terminal" diagnosis as I have, one, at least this one, has learned to live with the miscellaneous demands.

It's not to imply that doing so is easy, but not doing so is so much more difficult. To that end, which ultimately won't be my end, assimilating the good, bad and the incredibly worrisome into some sort of mental spreadsheet seems the only logical pursuit.

Either you learn to take it in stride or you'll die not trying.

And since dying, so far as we know anyhow, is so much less appealing than living, I'm striving to balance my equilibrium and never get too high or too low no matter the news. (Yes. I'm a Libra so balance is very much a part of my process.)

That's not to say that there aren't incredible pressures and challenges that us cancer patients have to manage, it's more that to say that laughing in the face of death is not a sign of weakness but more so a sign of enlightened strength.

Part of that strength is respecting the process with which cancer patients are all too familiar and moreover, and most importantly, understanding and respecting what we don't have control over. There's an element of letting go which enhances one's quality of life and minimizes obstacles as well.

Doing what you can and not fretting about what you can't, in addition to keeping an open mind, combines to smooth out the rough edges and to focus on the path ahead. The 'path ahead' being the goal.

I remember that exact philosophy being expressed by my oncologist at the original Team Lourie meeting back in late February 2009. When it was suggested that my mother's smoking of Chesterfield King cigarettes in my youth or my dalliances in college in the '70s might be relevant/have had an impact on my lung cancer diagnosis, my oncologist would have none of it.

Retrieving fragments of history and/or assigning blame for less-than-ideal behavior was irrelevant to him. His concern was not the past, it was the present/future. We were to be looking/planning ahead and treating forward.

And so here I sit, very much having been treated forward.

At present, I am my oncologist's prize cow, a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor, alive and reasonably well nine years and nearly seven months into an initial "13 month to two year" prognosis. After hearing that grim prognosis, I never would have imagined that in August 2018, I'd still be alive.

But here I am. Not a victim of my own circumstances.

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

TOWN ELECTION

Meet the Candidates for Mayor, Herndon Town Council

FROM PAGE 7

from US Congress to the Board of Supervisors, School Board, General Assembly and the Mayor. I am endorsed by Asian American Action Fund and Democratic Asian Americans of Virginia.

Pradip Dhakal

dhakalforherndontowncouncil@gmail.com
Town Councilmember (2-year term)

1 — To serve the community that I am part of. I have lived in this community for over 6 years now. I have a passion to work for this community, to become part of making this historical town of Herndon a prosperous and a model town.

2 — I would vote 'Yes' for the FY 2019 Budget. My recommendation or suggestion

8 — My campaign receives contributions from local supporters, local small businesses, Town residents and fellow elected officials. Friends, family, colleagues, youth & AAPI groups provide volunteer support. All financial information about my cam-



would be increasing the revenues by facilitating and attracting more business and by collecting more taxes (not through the consumers).

3 — Tax has to be balanced. I will support balanced taxes. More taxes can be collected not by increasing the rates but creating an environment to have more entrepreneurs and professional service providers.

4 — Herndon needs to be ready to host the migrating people from other states, as

paign is online at the VA State Board of Elections — search for my committee, Grace Wolf Cunningham for Herndon.

9 — Preserving the special feel of Herndon. Awarded Town's Distinguished Service Volunteer of the Year. First Korean

the job is being created/transferred in NoVA. Metro development and downtown development is a must. But preserving the old and historic essence of Herndon is equally important.

5 — We need to make art center a self sustaining entity by promoting exhibitions, and hosting more events etc. Some funding is needed but making it self sustaining is a must.

6 — I am a big advocate of Inclusiveness. The biggest strength we have in Herndon is our diversity. We need equal representation and inclusiveness.

American woman elected in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Increased civic engagement and outreach. Requested the Town's first LGBTQ Pride Month Proclamation. Received the County's Women's History Month Proclamation. Voted to adopt Campaign Finance Reporting.

7 — We decided to run for candidacy in the last minute. Therefore, did not seek for and/or missed the party endorsement.

8 — We are raising funds from all the friends, well wishers and community members. We have also got huge support from community members for volunteering in our campaign.

9 — Inclusiveness, public safety, making financially sustaining Herndon, promoting entrepreneurship, promoting the use of alternate energy, and promoting health and hygiene by supporting parks and recreation, trails and cycling is our top priority.

William "Sean" Kenis Jr.

sean@kenisforherndon.com
Town Councilmember (2-year term)

1 — We are 25+ year Herndon residents. We love Herndon! We want to provide more government transparency and ensure open conversations, challenge and debate potential impacts, and provide detailed information to those who want or need it. Transparency builds confidence and insures balance to make the most beneficial and honest decisions.

2 — Considering financial impacts and possible amendments, it's not realistic to answer yes/no. Keeping with the need to increase debate, balance and transparency, we need substantially more conversation about spending and fiscal policy. Folks make decisions about where to live based on tax burden. Herndon must keep spending re-



sponsible and consistent.

3 — 17 percent/\$9M Increase; this is substantial, would we manage our family finances this way. All funding is collected from businesses/residents. We must be faithful and accountable stewards. Decisions must be carefully considered and fiscally responsible to benefit everyone. During times of increasing property values, can we effectively reduce the tax burden?

4 — Based on the survey sponsored by the town published in June 2018, the two most important impacts now and in the future are taxes and traffic. As an example from the survey comments: "expensive to live/work, terrible traffic, crowding, and É not happy". It's always best to address the issues as identified by the people living them. Sensible development is at the core of these impacts. Rapid growth, without reasonable and balanced input from all sources, can cause increased traffic, infrastructure issues and tax burdens. The town

is growing and developing rapidly. Are we looking for sensible solutions to guard against traffic congestion and over-development? Looking forward, we must address these issues with inclusion and respect to benefit everyone in Herndon!

5 — More respectful/inclusive conversation is needed and input from the community is essential. Looking at successful established Arts Programs and using their model as a basis, is a practical way forward. Many local communities have a wide spectrum of artistic/theatrical offerings and a successful base of private, government and business funding.

6 — Term limits! Local elections are an opportunity to keep party politics out of the conversation; it's a chance for individuals/groups to think and vote for/against issues directly affecting Herndon. Changes that can help drive inclusive membership are term limits and district representation. Term limits ensure new, creative thinking on a regular basis. District Representation ensures that each of the three Herndon districts has a representative who lives in and

supports the needs of their constituents.

7 — No. Historically, we've seen a party impact in Herndon as some political parties have invested funds to elect representatives in independent elections, where town issues should be the priority. During this cycle, one party accepted paid applications in a selection process to determine the candidates to receive the party's support.

8 — Financial support of our campaign has been grass roots and mostly personally funded. We believe in the importance of this election and the future of Herndon. To date we have received a few contributions from individuals, and we have not received any donations from any businesses, developers, or political entities.

9 — When opinions are considered honestly, decisions transparently debated, we are motivated to contribute/participate in the process. When we respect the thoughts, opinions, ideas of everyone, we'll do what's best for Herndon! The best decisions are made because we embrace a balanced organization that fosters debate that always incorporates transparency, inclusion.

Roland Taylor

Taylor4Herndon@gmail.com
Town Councilmember (2-year term)

1 — It has become very concerning over the last few terms how the Council members have been running on block tickets and endorsed party partisan slates. My qualification are over thirty years of both domestic and international criminal justice and rule of law experience and as a University Associate Professor.

2 - Council members should work hard to research all areas of the budget as the citizen's representative. There was a 17.7 percent increase in the FY 2019 Budget from the adopted FY 2018 Budget.



3 — Town taxes have to be as low as possible due to the additional Fairfax taxes paid by citizens. Taxes were held down, however user fees, and both water and sewer rates increased. I will not support an increase on meal tax and work to control spending and not penalize businesses.

4 — Voters have to decide why they selected to live in Herndon and if that quality of life style will continue with a higher density rezoning model the current Town Council is supporting. With rapid growth, there are the equal impacts to increased traffic congestion and school overcrowding. We need a diverse Council and not yes votes across the board. There some very big projects on the table that will have long term impacts to Herndon.

5 — The Art Center build out plan has always been the responsibility of the tenants of the center and not taxpayers. Yearly grants have tripled over the last few terms the citizens have paid too much already. The Town will have to operate the Town's property to protect our investment.

6 — The Town should recruit and mentor diverse members of the community to encourage their participation in community service. This will create a safe and inviting environment for our citizens from diverse or endangered populations within the town. There is an obvious lack of diversity on all boards and commissions. The block ticket campaigns also damage and disenfranchises this relationship in our diverse community.

7 — I have not, nor would ever seek a partisan party endorsement for town office.

Local elections have no place for bias, divisive, or hateful politics. It has been disappointing to see the town elections become divisive. Party and block/group tickets disenfranchise citizen from seeking office against party funded groups.

8 — My last campaign and this campaign have been totally self-funded. If I would accept contributions they will not be from party officials, developers, or reality professionals. Many friends and family are helping to get our message out for change.

9 — It has become very concerning that the Council members have been running on block tickets and endorsed party partisan slates. The continuous unopposed votes and lack of public debate has caused a chilling effect on citizen input. A more open council will allow for more voices to be heard and respected.