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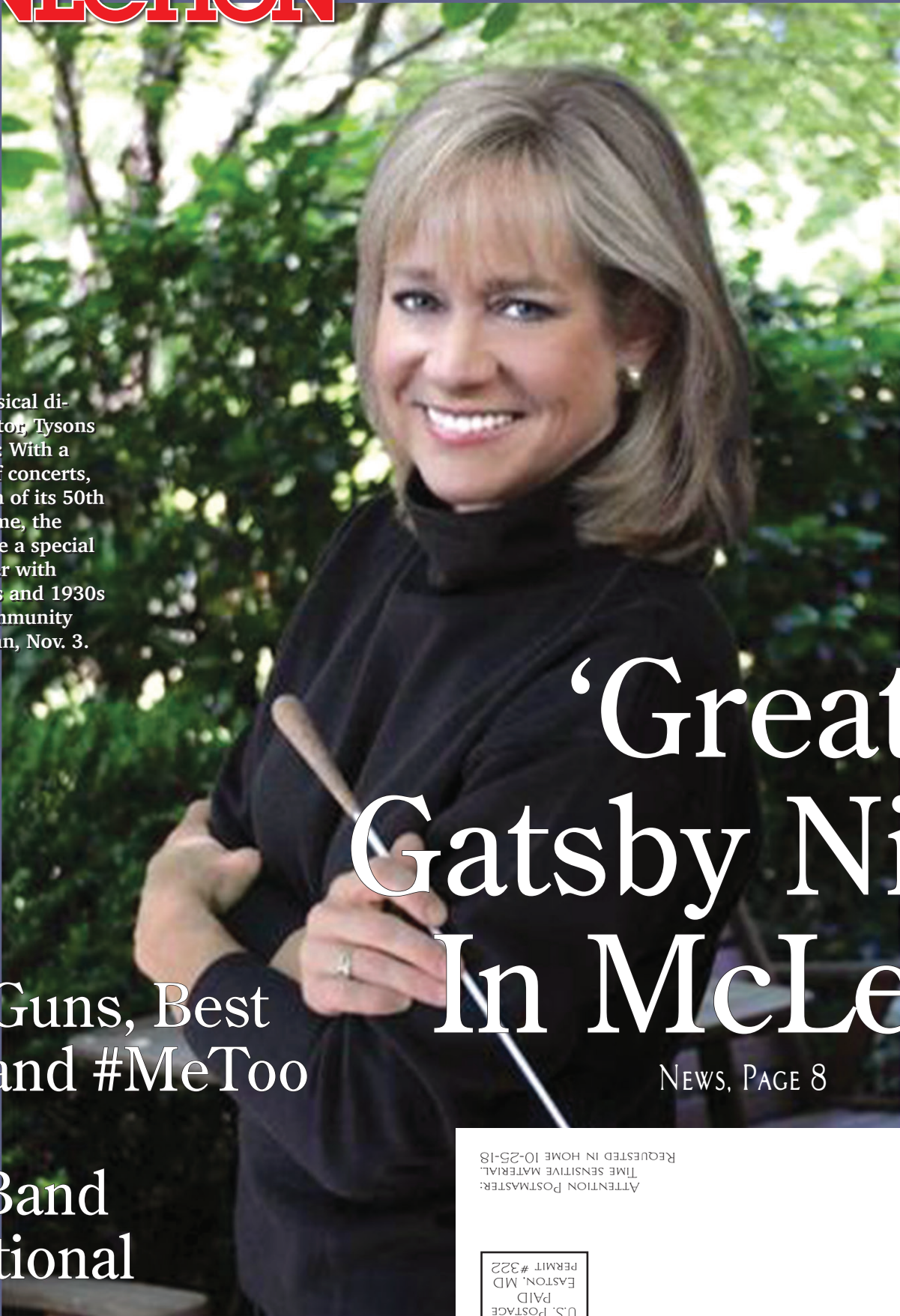
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## ‘Great Gatsby Night’ In McLean

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Twitter, Guns, Best Friends and #MeToo

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Cooper Band Goes National

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**VDOT consultant Rob Prunty and VDOT Transportation and Land Use Director for Northern Virginia Alison Richter listen to comments from area residents at the second public hearing to address the pilot program proposal to close the northbound ramp from Georgetown Pike to the Capital Beltway.**

## More Heated Debate on Proposed Ramp Closure

**VDOT holds second public meeting on proposal to close Georgetown Pike access to 495.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the previous community meeting on Aug. 2 to discuss traffic issues in the McLean area, Virginia Department of Transportation Chief Engineer Barrett Moore assured residents repeatedly that the proposal to close the northbound ramp from Georgetown Pike onto I-495 from 1-7 p.m. on weekdays as a potential solution “would not go forward without strong support from the community.”

At the department's second public meeting on Oct. 18 at McLean High School, Moore issued his assurances once more. He

also informed the several hundred meeting attendees that public opinion as submitted to VDOT to date was currently running at 35 percent in favor of the suggested four-month pilot testing of the ramp closure, versus 65 percent who were opposed and 3 percent who submitted “neutral” responses or approval with conditions.

“So why are we here, if it's so obvious that you're not getting that strong support?” was one of the first questions Moore, VDOT Transportation and Land Use Director for Northern Virginia Alison Richter, and VDOT traffic consultant Rob Prunty faced when their presentation ended and the public

SEE RAMP CLOSURE, PAGE 12



**Lining up to have their say: After the VDOT presentation on the pilot program to alleviate local traffic problems by closing the northbound ramp from Georgetown Pike to I-495, more than 60 area residents quickly lined up to ask questions and make comments.**



# Twitter, Guns, Best Friends and #MeToo

**Comstock, Wexton answer voters most-asked questions in The Connection's Congressional Midterm Q&A.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**his fall, voters wield all the power. On Nov. 6, they will decide who controls Congress for the next two years of Donald Trump's presidency, a decision that could significantly reshape the current political landscape, impacting both Republican and Democratic agendas for years to come.

In Virginia, the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District race between Republican Barbara Comstock, the incumbent, and her Democratic challenger, state senator Jennifer Wexton, is one of the most closely-watched, competitive races in the nation. Democrats are eyeing the 10<sup>th</sup> as a strong pick-up opportunity, trying to flip a seat that Republicans have held for more than half a century.

The Connection reviewed dozens of "frequently-asked" questions culled from various national, state and local forums, focus groups and surveys. Out of nearly 100 questions, we narrowed it down to the top 12. Both candidates agreed to answer our questions in writing. Our only request to the candidates: keep answers to a 750-word total. Here are their complete answers, unedited.

*Q: Do you think the Second Amendment should be repealed?*

**Comstock:** No.

**Wexton:** No. But we do need to pass common sense gun violence prevention measures.

*Q: If not, do you think there should be any new gun restrictions to deal with what feels like an epidemic of mass shootings?*

**Comstock:** We passed three important pieces of legislation for prevention of gun violence in the past year: 1) The Stop School Violence Act, which was the number one priority of school violence prevention advocates. It provides billions in increased funds for school resource officers, school safety programs, mental health treatment, crisis intervention and hardening of school security. 2) We passed bipartisan legislation to improve and provide more funding for the national background check system – the most significant improvement in the system in a decade. 3) I passed my "Project Safe Neighborhoods" legislation which provides funding for tackling gun crime, as well as gang crime and drugs. In addition, I support banning bumpstock and I am pleased that process is going forward at the Justice Department. Finally, I support "red flag laws" that allow law enforcement and fam-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Democrat Jennifer Wexton takes voters questions at Virginia International University's Candidate Forum, held in Fairfax last month.**

ily members to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order to get weapons out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves or others.

**Wexton:** Meaningful gun reforms like expanded background checks and legislation to keep weapons of war out of the hands of dangerous people enjoy wide popular support and we should pass them.

*Q: What would you do if Trump fired special counsel Robert Mueller?*

**Comstock:** I am confident that the President will not fire Bob Mueller. I support the Russia investigation being completed quickly and having as much information as possible disclosed to the public.

**Wexton:** What is most important right now is that the Special Counsel be protected from outside influence and insulated from attacks by Donald Trump. We need a Congress that is willing to stand up to Trump and be a check on the Administration, not just a rubber stamp.

*Q: What's the best indication of economic health – the stock market, unemployment rate, income?*

**Comstock:** We are experiencing an incredibly healthy economy as a result of lowering our taxes and cutting regulations – and the indicators are things such as a 4.2 percent growth rate, the highest family income ever, high consumer confidence, high small business and manufacturing optimism, growing wages, a strong job market, and low unemployment rates for men and women in all demographic groups. I am the only candidate in this race to have authored



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Republican Rep. Barbara Comstock at the kickoff of her annual Young Women Leadership Program this summer.**

and passed tax cuts, and to have been endorsed by business groups such as the U.S. Chamber, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the National Association of Women Business Owners and other industries because jobs and the economy have always been a top priority for me. A healthy economy should lead the world in innovation, research and development and provide expanded opportunities for men and women from all walks of life. Economic health also would be enhanced by having more women in senior roles because studies have found that businesses and companies with more senior women actually are more financially strong and sound.

**Wexton:** Labor participation, wage growth, and unemployment are all key indicators because they show whether the middle class is experiencing the kind of growth already enjoyed by the wealthy.

*Q: Should there be a citizenship question on the census?*

**Comstock:** I am fine with or without a question, but what is disappointing with the questions on this survey is that there are no questions on the importance of our national security or homeland security and the importance of stopping defense sequestration (which we did); and not a single question about our veterans who deserve the added services and support we have provided over the past 2 years.

**Wexton:** No. The Constitution says to count all people, and this measure is designed to prevent that from taking place.

*Q: Is it fair to trade a border wall with Mexico for protected status for DACA recipients?*

**Comstock:** Legislation that includes

both border security and a solution for DACA recipients has been supported at various times by Democrats, Republicans and the President, so this provides the outlines for a compromise. I have voted for such a compromise so that we can have a solution instead of a stalemate and have a system that is fairer and simpler and rewards those who play by the rules. I also support expanding H1B Visas and agriculture visas and other reforms that support growing our economy.

**Wexton:** We should not have to trade anything to get protections for Dreamers. It's the right thing to do, it's overwhelmingly popular with the American people, and it should not be subject to a ransom.

*Q: Should felons who served their sentence be able to vote?*

**Comstock:** This should be handled on a case by case basis. I don't support violent felons automatically having their rights restored. I have supported criminal justice reform that addresses racial disparities in the system. This Congress I authored and passed my "Project Safe Neighborhoods" legislation which supports community policing and assistance to address gun crime, gang crime, and drug crime. I have been endorsed by the Police Benevolent Association because I am committed to public safety and I have worked extensively with the law enforcement community since my time as a senior Justice Department official.

**Wexton:** I support restoration of voting rights for felons who have completed the terms of their sentences.

SEE Q & A, PAGE 10





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**The Fallstead is the first phase of the County's efforts to create a multi-generational community at the Lewinsville site.**

## Multi-generational Community Rises at Lewinsville Campus

**O**n Thursday, Oct. 18, Fairfax County and Wesley Hamel Lewinsville LLC held a ribbon cutting for The Fallstead, an 82-unit independent senior living residence, located at 1609 Great Falls Street in McLean.

The event was attended by John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor; Jeff McKay, Lee District Supervisor; Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor; Virginia State Senator, Barbara Favola; Virginia State Delegate, Richard "Rip" Sullivan; Fairfax County Executive, Bryan Hill; Melissa Jonas, Dranesville District Commissioner to the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority; Shelley Murphy, President and CEO of Wesley Housing; Susan Dewey, Executive Director of Virginia Housing Development Authority; Paul Kohlenberger, president of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce; and Terry Kenny, Market President, TD Bank Mid-South Region, as well as other civic leaders, neighbors and future residents of the facility.

The 8.66-acre site of the Lewinsville Senior Center Campus at one time housed an elementary school that was constructed in 1961. In 1994, the County approved a Special Exception that permitted a 22-bed independent living facility, a senior center providing activities for up to 50 adults, an adult day care center for up to 40 adults, child care for up to 210 children, and an athletic area with a rectangular field and a diamond. In 2004, the County approved a Special Exception Amendment (SEA) which would have maintained those uses and added a 60-unit assisted living facility.

Before Supervisor Foust took office in

2008, the project to renovate and expand the facility had stalled. Foust asked the Department of Housing and Community Development staff to restart efforts to implement the project. However, it became apparent that the cost to construct and operate an affordable assisted living facility would be prohibitive. As a result, in 2012, Supervisor Foust asked County staff to determine whether a public-private partnership could be used to construct and operate an affordable independent living facility at the site.

In March 2015, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a comprehensive agreement to demolish the existing building and redevelop the facility through a creative private-public partnership with Wesley Hamel Lewinsville LLC.

The Fallstead is the first phase of the County's efforts to create a multi-generational community at the Lewinsville site. Early in 2019, a second building on the site will open. It will include an expanded adult day care center, a senior center and two child day care centers. That building is being constructed and will be operated by Fairfax County.

"This is a great day for seniors in McLean and all of Fairfax County. The need for affordable housing for seniors is here and it is growing. It is a real challenge to provide quality housing for low-income seniors. That is why projects like The Fallstead are so important," said Foust. "I have looked forward to this day for years. I am grateful to everyone who helped make it happen. And I am very happy for the many seniors who will soon be able to call this awesome place their home" he said.

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## Preserving the History of Greenway Heights

The McLean Historical Society honored Eloise Lorenze with a certificate of appreciation for her work in researching and preserving the history of Greenway Heights to earn her Girl Scout Silver Project Award. Her work can be located at [www.greenwayheightshistory.com](http://www.greenwayheightshistory.com). From left: Carole Herrick, President McLean Historical Society, Eloise Lorenze, Ingrid Wrausmann, McLean Historical Society, and Anna Eberly, Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

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## Responding to Climate Change Warnings

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

Last week I wrote about the dire warning of the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change about the more immediate consequences of climate change than had originally been predicted. Avoiding the damages to our planet and to our way of life would require "transforming the world economy at a speed and scale that has no documented precedent," according to the report.

The greatest economies in the world must lead the changes necessary to preserve our planet and the quality of life for our families rather than dismissing or debating its findings. The time for action is now with the report describing a world of worsening food shortages and wildfires and a mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040, a little more than two decades away.

What we have instead are politicians at the highest level of the federal government making promises at political rallies in West Virginia



### COMMENTARY

to bring back coal, the greatest offender of climate change, and in Iowa to increase corn production for ethanol that when added to gasoline may release more carbon from the lands than it saves. Scores of regulations intended to reduce climate change have been

rescinded to gain favor of those who see them as interference in their quest to make more bucks or to gain more votes from a political constituency.

Absent little or no help on this concern at the federal level for the next couple of years, what can be done in the meantime? At the state level I will be pushing for a strengthening of a commitment by state government to increase its efforts at energy conservation, eliminating any subsidies for coal production, intensive economic development in green jobs for areas previously dependent on coal, a tax on carbon, accelerating the use of renewable energy, and establishing Virginia as a green state in its policies as well as reforestation. There are

many reasons to take this immediate action in Virginia if for no other motive than that we stand to be among the first states to lose a significant chunk of our land mass with climate change and sea level rise.

I am pleased that Fairfax County has made a nod in the direction of concern about sea level rise, but there is reason to believe that one of the wealthiest counties in the country can find the will and the resources to do even more. We have been planting trees, but we need to plant many more. We have been working to get people out of their individual cars, and we must incentivize more people to use cleaner transit. Thanks to School Board Member Pat Hynes for her resolution calling for state and federal action on climate change. It is a beginning, but the locality must budget as a social cost for the county and not for the school district the addition of solar panels on the millions of square feet of roof space on our schools. Also, our school lots should be forested and not lawns.

Small actions taken by many can produce significant results. We have our warning. No time for hand wringing. We need to get to work.

## Warner, Wolf and Davis Endorse Comstock

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you today to endorse our friend and fighter for Virginia's 10th Congressional District ... Barbara Comstock. In our extensive careers serving Virginia, we have worked with Barbara. We know she is a uniquely effective legislator with deep relationships throughout the 10th District and in Congress that enables her to deliver bipartisan results that are improving the lives of her constituents as well as our community.

As the Congresswoman for the 10th District, Barbara Comstock has demonstrated that she is a strong fighter for the people and diverse interests of the district — our military, our veterans, our federal employees, our farmers, our technology community, our hospitals and medical and research community, our schools and universities, our historical and heritage communities, our charities, and more. Barbara is immersed in the issues vital to the 10th District, her constituent service continues to be strong, and we strongly endorse her re-election.

As the only female member of the Virginia congressional delegation, Barbara has taken on an important leadership role

for women: Barbara led the charge on cracking down on sexual harassment in Congress and the workplace, passing major reform legislation to require mandatory training for all staff and Members of Congress to prevent harassment, as well as legislation to reform the process by providing a victims advocate office and demanding more accountability and transparency.

Barbara has also been a leader promoting women in the STEM fields with the passage of her "INSPIRE" Act and other STEM education efforts, and she established the 10th District Young Women's Leadership Program that has mentored over 1,500 young women in high school and junior high school.

Barbara has fought for and delivered results for the 10th District on key issues vital to our community:

❖ **Rebuilding our Military:** Barbara championed rebuilding our military and ending the national defense sequestration budget cuts that were hollowing out our military and threatening readiness and hurting Virginia's economy

SEE COMSTOCK, PAGE 14

## Comstock Fails SNAP Test

To the Editor:

Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) has taken a hard core right wing stance in supporting President Trump and the House's Farm Bill version that would gut the vital SNAP nutrition program.

In contrast, state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33), the Democratic nominee in the 10th Congressional District, has endorsed the moderate, bipartisan Senate version that preserves the SNAP program and passed with overwhelming support by most US senators of both parties, 86-11. The House version barely passed by 2 votes, 213-211.

We have asked several times if Rep. Comstock would move to the Senate version to avoid the House bill that would cut benefits and inevitably result in kicking deserving Virginians off of this key nutrition program. All we have received is a generalized comment that she supports a compromise that ends the impasse, and this does nothing to answer the question about SNAP.

The SNAP nutrition program is vital for all demographic groups, including the large Latino community which makes up approximately 13 percent of the population in the 10th District.

We received feedback on key safety net issues like SNAP at our nonpartisan forum for 10th District candidates in McLean in late May, and the Comstock campaign was the only one of the then eight campaigns from both parties that was not represented by either the

candidate or a senior surrogate.

As many nonprofits and anti-hunger and poverty advocates in northern Virginia know, even in our relatively prosperous area there are substantial numbers of people who are immigrants, economically under stress, homeless, or otherwise in need of nutrition assistance.

The Farm Bill is essential for the SNAP nutrition program that is the key bulwark against hunger and malnutrition, as well as agriculture provisions that are important for farmers in the western part of the 10th District. SNAP promotes food security, enhances health, improves child development and learning, lifts households above the poverty line, helps people facing temporary setbacks, and stimulates local economic activity.

We have not gotten any meaningful feedback from either the Comstock Congressional or campaign offices despite repeated efforts, and Virginians need to know that Comstock not only voted for the House version earlier in the year that would harm SNAP, but published a statement praising the House's reactionary bill.

Comstock and Congress as a whole can't evade responsibility for taking a stand on this crucial issue by kicking the can down the road and saying, "Trust us, we'll come up with a resolution after the election." The SNAP vote reportedly will now take place some time

SEE SNAP, PAGE 14

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# LETTERS

## Clear Choice in VA-10

To the Editor:

When a person is running for Congress, we listen hard to the messaging on TV ads and in public forums.

Jennifer Wexton focuses on bread and butter issues affecting everyone in VA-10 — how families can afford good health care, a commitment to first-class public education, and a bi-partisan state legislative record that helped protect children and prevent opioid overdose deaths. Wexton also believes that a vibrant Virginia economy means first-class roads, bridges, electrical grids, water supply, and telecommunications. She is committed to building consensus around critical infrastructure needs.

Barbara Comstock slams Wexton for I-66 tolls Wexton had nothing to do with. Comstock makes claims that often oversell what she really did, like saying she passed “landmark legislation on sexual harassment” when in fact she offered a simple, non-binding resolution about Congress.

Comstock talks a good line about independence and her repu-

tation as a fighter but she is silent when it comes to defending her 98 percent Trump voting record or speaking truth to power. She thinks we won’t notice.

Who do we want representing us? Someone who will show up to defend her record as a prosecutor and state legislator and tell us how she will fight for us in Congress? Or someone who refuses to speak directly with us, who won’t hold a town hall meeting with constituents and ducked an invitation to be part of a non-partisan League of Women Voters debate?

We know who will work to truly make our lives better.

**Mehrdad Etemad**  
**Homa Etemad**  
McLean

## Comstock Tax Cut Promises Fail to Deliver

To the Editor:

The evidence is in about the Trump tax cut bill and what happens when you drop the federal corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent but leave all the tax loopholes. Donald Trump’s staunch

supporter, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, said corporate America would spread the wealth and set new records for the economy.

Instead, corporate America is taking the money and lining its own pockets. The tax cuts mean corporate stock buyouts, higher stock prices, and guarantees that the already rich get richer. Any crumbs the tax cuts threw to individuals have been wiped out at the gas pump. There is nothing left for workers to celebrate.

Long-term, our country is the real loser. There is no money to shore up our crumbling infrastructure. Federal programs like Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid and Veterans Affairs are at grave risk. With about a quarter of corporate tax revenue out the window, benefit cuts down the road are inevitable. And remember all that election talk about infrastructure? You can forget about it.

A country risks too much if it opens its purse only to its military but closes its eyes to the health, education and welfare of its people. And if the financial crisis of 2008 taught us anything, it’s that good people and nations can lose everything in no time at all. The tax cuts took away the financial wiggle room that would help

us dig out of the next crisis.

VA-10 needs and deserves real leadership as we head into ever more challenging times. Voting with the Trump administration 98 percent of the time is not leadership. Say “no” to more empty promises from a phony “moderate” that will leave the rest of us – young and old – hanging out to dry. It is time for a change in VA-10. Send Jennifer Wexton to Congress!

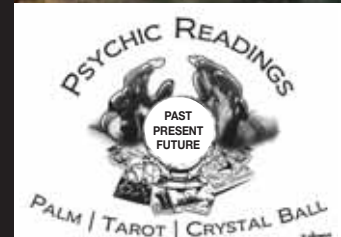
**Wes Callender**  
Great Falls

## Revisiting Definition of Socialism

To the Editor:

Any government run public program can be characterized as being socialized, but a limited, or localized, program is not the same as socialism, as Mr. Donahue seems to suggest in his letter to the editor (“Socialized” Healthcare Works, Connection, October 17-23, 2018). Under a government of socialism, an entire public program, such as single payer health

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15



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# Music from the Magical Age

Tysons McLean Orchestra to perform 'Great Gatsby Night' at Vinson Hall in McLean.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

With its byline, "Community in Concert," the professional Tysons McLean Orchestra is celebrating its 48<sup>th</sup> performance season. "We are an orchestra for the community. Great music can be a powerful force in people's lives," said Miriam Burns, music director and conductor.

"Music speaks to us in ways that words cannot," added Burns. "Music can unite and heal a community and bring people together and has the power to affect all of us in such overwhelming ways."

With a full, new season of concerts, and in anticipation of its 50th season soon to come, the Tysons McLean Orchestra (TMO) will have a special gala and fundraiser with music of the 1920s and 1930s. It is titled a "Great Gatsby Night." The evening will be headlined by the pianist Thomas Pandolfi.

"Thomas Pandolfi is one of our most beloved and popular soloists. Our audiences love hearing him perform," said Burns. "He draws the audience closer by talking about

the music he is about to play. It will be an unforgettable evening in support of the Tysons McLean Orchestra."

"My belief is that every performance, no matter how profound the music, should never lose the element of entertainment," said Pandolfi. "Audiences must feel emotionally moved, inspired, dazzled — they must feel a sense of enjoyment."

The music to be performed at the TMO "Great Gatsby" event "is energetic, sophisticated, jazzy," noted Pandolfi. "Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' will be featured as the centerpiece work, as well as a Medley of that composer's best loved songs. Other music from that magical era will be showcased as well."

If the name Tysons McLean Orchestra (TMO) is new to you, it is the new name for the McLean Orchestra. "The name change was a decision that acknowledges



**Thomas Pandolfi, soloist and renowned pianist performing at Tysons McLean Orchestra's "Great Gatsby Night."**



**Miriam Burns, musical director and conductor, Tysons McLean Orchestra**

## Where and When

Tysons McLean Orchestra to present "Great Gatsby Night" featuring Thomas Pandolfi at Vinson Hall Community Ballroom, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean, Nov. 3, 2018 at 6 p.m. with cocktails and dinner. Performance at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$200 per person. Detailed information about the gala and the entire Tysons McLean Orchestra 2018-19 season are at [www.TysonsmcLeanOrchestra.org](http://www.TysonsmcLeanOrchestra.org) or call 703-893-8646.

ning for its next 50 years."

Beyond its own concert schedule, the TMO is also the founder of the McLean Youth Orchestra (MYO). This youth orchestra was created to provide the finest possible musical education to students who

represent the future of classical music. "With the MYO, students learn important life skills that they will use the rest of their lives, regardless of what profession they end up in," added Burns.

## ORGANIC VEGETABLES

For more than ten years, Wild Ginger in Great Falls has been serving quality, warm, and loving meals to our community. With our new menu, we offer a unique spin on classical Thai and Chinese cuisine. Wild Ginger is also the only restaurant in the area serving organic vegetables, little oil, premium ingredients, and absolutely nothing canned. Family-owned and operated, the laid-back, comfortable atmosphere is perfect for gatherings, great experiences, and more. Our caring staff will do our best to satisfy all.

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# CALENDAR

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

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 24

**72nd Annual Halloween Parade.** 7 p.m. On Maple Avenue in downtown Vienna. Don't miss out on the costumes and floats, the marching bands, the performances, and the sense of camaraderie and community as the parade moonwalks down the road for the 72nd time. Costumed children and families who wish to march in the parade should meet at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of United Bank, 374 Maple Avenue E. The parade is sponsored by the Town of Vienna and the Vienna Business Association. Contact the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 26

**McLean Farmers Market.** Fridays through Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-noon at 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean).

**Riverbend Bird Walks.** 8-10 a.m. at Riverbend Park - Visitor Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Riverbend Park is offering free birding walks in October. Participants should be prepared to walk about two miles in comfortable, closed-toed shoes. There likely will be gentle uphill and downhill stretches on slightly uneven terrain. Bring binoculars. Rain or shine. Call 703-759-9018, or stop by the Visitors' Center front desk to register.

**McLean Art Society Meeting.** 10 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Naomi Chung, a semi-

# Langley High Orchestra to Perform Halloween Music

BY ALEX MONTANO  
LANGLEY HIGH SENIOR

**H**alloween just isn't the same without great music to fit the occasion, and nobody knows this better than the award-winning Langley High School Orchestra, which will present a Spookfest concert on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Langley High School Auditorium.

The Freshman Orchestra will begin the night with classics such as the soundtrack from "The Phantom of the Opera."

Immediately afterward, listeners will be riveted by a performance of the famous "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by a unique ensemble of more than eighteen cellists known collectively as The Cello Choir.

The Philharmonic Orchestra will dazzle the audience with dark 19th-century masterpieces by composers Saint-Saens and Liszt, featuring a violin soloist, three virtuoso pianists, and musicians from the accomplished Langley High School Band.

Finally, the night will be capped off by a rendition of Michael Jackson's iconic "Thriller," played by the Symphonic Orchestra.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HELEN BECKNER

**The Langley High School Orchestra will perform Halloween music on Tuesday, Oct. 30**

Before the music, concert-goers are encouraged to admire the work of the Langley photography department, which will be displaying their own Halloween-themed photography in the hall adjacent to the auditorium.

This concert is free to the public and designed for all ages. Appropriate costumes are welcome for performers and audience members alike.

If you dare, come out and enjoy the show.

120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Kathleen Barth makes her Vienna Theatre Company directorial debut the final two weekends of October and the first weekend of November. Tickets are \$14. Advance tickets may be purchased online at [viennava.gov/webtrac](http://viennava.gov/webtrac) or in person at the community center; if available, tickets may be purchased at the door.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 27

**Fall Festival.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at George C Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. George C Marshall HS Dance Team presents a Fall Festival and Craft and Vendor Bazaar. Food, shopping, raffle prizes, and entertainment, free activities for children. Admission is free. Email [kristen.farrand@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.farrand@gmail.com) or call 913-680-7902.

**Vienna Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, through Nov. 3 at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The Vienna Farmers Market, hosted by the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, has more than 30 vendors from across the region, the Vienna Farmers Market provides locally-sourced fruits and vegetables and homemade eats. Visit [www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/](http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/) for more.

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** Year-round Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email [kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org) for more.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

abstract landscape painter in oils will be the presenter. Chung has a B.F.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a member of The McLean Project for the Arts and The

Art Council of Fairfax County. She will focus on "working toward abstraction." Guests are welcome. Call 703 356-2998 for more.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 26-27

**"Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight."** 8 p.m. at Vienna Community Center,

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We hope our current patients will have the opportunity to meet and be treated by Dr. Do sometime soon. And for anyone who requires the expertise of the area's only Uveitis specialist, he is ready and available whenever you need him.

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Cooper's concert home is the Langley High School Auditorium, where it presents several performances throughout the year.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**Eighth grader Morgan Marenburg clarifies a passage of music with Assistant Director Alexandra Singer and Director Matthew C. Baker during a rehearsal.**

## Cooper Symphonic Band Gets Ready for National Music Festival

Trombonists perfect their harmony, flutists refine their trills and trumpet players hit their high notes in the clarion call of an introductory movement. These are the sounds in the band rooms of Cooper Middle School where Director Matthew C. Baker and Assistant Director Alexandra Singer ready their students for concerts throughout the year and a special trip to the Music for All (MFA) National Festival this spring in Indianapolis, Ind.

MFA is the destination of Cooper's Symphonic Band, one of only eight middle school bands selected, through blind audition, from across the United States to perform at the annual event. MFA is a prominent, long-running showcase held for scholastic bands, percussion ensembles, orchestras and choirs. Cooper's invitation is a special local recognition, as it is the first middle school band ever invited from any of the Mid-Atlantic states. Performing at MFA comes on the heels of last year's honor in which the Symphonic Band was selected, also through blind audition, as the sole middle school performer at the 2017 conference of the Virginia Music Educators Association.

**THE 78 STUDENTS** who make up the Symphonic Band have only a few months to perfect the pieces Baker selected for MFA. "We've chosen a demanding program of music that usually is performed by experienced high school bands," Baker explained, "but I know what these students are capable of accomplishing musically."

Arlene Randall, Principal of Cooper Middle School, is confident the Symphonic Band will perform well. "Cooper's motto is A Quest for Excellence, and our band program is the epitome of this," she added.

MFA will be a high-point experience for the local musicians. During the event, students will take in the advice from noted music professionals during instrument master classes and full band clinics. They'll have a chance to enjoy numerous concert performances and perform their own program in Indianapolis' prime concert venue, the 2,200-person Schrott Concert Hall. "Performing our program in such a beautiful and artfully acoustic space will be a memorable experience and a thrill," stated Singer.

When Baker arrived as Director of Bands at Cooper five years ago, he joined a program that consisted of two bands and 57



**Stephen H. Rice, Past President of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association, with Director Matthew C. Baker after Cooper Band and Baker receive awards at last year's annual conference of the Virginia Music Educators Association.**

students. Under his baton the program has flourished, this year reaching nearly 200 students, making up three concert bands and a jazz band. "If you close your eyes and just listen to our Symphonic Band play," Randall said, "you cannot believe it is middle school students who are performing. The students have done incredible things, and Mr. Baker has taken our band to a level I have never seen in a middle school."

**RANDALL AND BAKER** commend the band students at Cooper, noting their hard work and commitment. "I'm so proud of

the dedication these students and their families have to music and our band program," said Baker, "especially in light of the many interests and activities these kids are involved in." Students are quick to point to Baker's and Singer's dedication and enthusiasm as the key to their success, but the directors add that many factors have helped the program. "We're fortunate to build on the foundation of great band programs in our area elementary schools," explained Baker, "and we keep growing, with support from Cooper and the determination of our middle school musicians."

## Q&A with 10th District Candidates

FROM PAGE 3

**Q:** Name three Democrats/Republicans (people in the opposing party) with whom you are friendly – or actual friends.

**Comstock:** Rep. Debbie Dingell, Rep. Lois Frankel, and Donna Brazile.

**Wexton:** Emmett Hanger, Jill Vogel, Randy Minchew.

**Q:** How would you address the #MeToo movement as a member of Congress?

**Comstock:** I have been a leader battling sexual harassment in Congress passing bipartisan landmark reform legislation to provide victims support and more funding to the EEOC office that handles complaints. I also passed legislation requiring anti-harassment education and training for all Members of Congress and

their staff. The legislation also provides due process for both the victim and the accused. The hearings we have held have also highlighted how sexual harassment can impact the pay gap by driving women out of their chosen professions and we will aggressively address this problem to keep women in their chosen professions.

**Wexton:** Electing more women is an important start. We need our leaders to send a clear message that those who commit sexual offenses will be held accountable, no matter who they are. It has taken far too long for Congress to pass even basic measures to reform its own processes in this area.

**Q:** Do you believe climate change is real and man-made? If yes, how should Congress address it?

**Comstock:** Yes, and I am a member of the Climate Change Caucus but my focus is

not on increasing regulations or adding taxes, but instead using innovation and technology to provide solutions for cleaner, more efficient, and more affordable energy.

**Wexton:** Yes. Congress should renew America's commitment to the Paris Accords, and take steps that address climate change while helping the economy convert to cleaner energy sources with minimal disruption.

**Q:** Would you vote to overturn a presidential veto to keep the government running?

**Comstock:** I am the only Member of Congress in the Washington Metropolitan region – Democrat or Republican - who has NEVER voted to shut down the government. I have worked to keep the government open and functioning and fought to get the federal pay raise restored. I have worked closely with NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) and have earned the support of their PAC because of my

strong support for our federal employees.

**Wexton:** Yes.

**Q:** Should President Trump tweet more/less/same?

**Comstock:** My apologies, but I think this is a ridiculous question when there hasn't been a single question about the importance of getting better cures and treatments for chronic diseases such as Alzheimer's, cancer, and diabetes – something I am passionate about and have worked to provide record funding for at this critical time when we have the opportunity for breakthroughs in medical research. We have also provided a record \$4 billion in funding and support for prevention and treatment of addiction to opioids and heroin – something the President has declared a national health emergency – something that he may have tweeted about too.

**Wexton:** Less



## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

**Oakton Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit [community-foodworks.org](http://community-foodworks.org).

**Genealogy Fall Fair.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Cost is \$45/\$55. Program topics include: Genealogy in the Digital Age, presented by Genealogist James Beidler; "Digital Databases bringing Libraries to your desktop;" "Ancestors Seen through Newspapers;" "Headline to Bylines: sing all the Newspaper in your Genealogy." Email: [conference@fxgs.org](mailto:conference@fxgs.org) or call 703-644-8185. Visit the website: [www.fxgs.org](http://www.fxgs.org).

**Trunk or Treat.** 4-6 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville is hosting a Trunk or Treat Block Party event for the community, safe fun for the whole family. Trick or Treaters go from car to car and trunk to trunk, collecting candy from the volunteers who have decorated their vehicles to serve as a backdrop for this spooktacular event. Free and open to the public. Call 703-356-7200 or visit [lewinsville.org](http://lewinsville.org) for more.

**Together Under the Northern Lights Gala.** 6 p.m.-midnight. At Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Sponsored by Arlington Free Clinic. This year's event will celebrate the Clinic's commitment to providing free, high-quality medical care to low-income uninsured Arlington County adults. For event details and to purchase tickets and sponsorships, please visit [www.gala.arlingtonfreeclinic.org](http://www.gala.arlingtonfreeclinic.org).

### SUNDAY/OCT. 28

**Halloween Outing.** 2-6 p.m. At Krop's Crops, 11110 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Krop's Crops and Safespot have partnered for a fun family Halloween outing. Select your favorite pumpkin from Krop's pumpkin patch, carve or decorate your pumpkin with help from Safespot volunteers, take a hayride and snack on s'mores, a treat for kids and a treat for Safespot! All proceeds go to Safespot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax. Cost is \$15/per person. Early registration at <https://conta.cc/2xzKusT>.

**"Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight."** 2 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. See above. Advance tickets online at [viennava.gov/webtrac](http://viennava.gov/webtrac) or in person at the community center; if available, tickets may be purchased at the door.

**"Grant Us Peace."** 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. New Dominion Chorale will begin its 28th season with a program titled "Grant Us Peace." The concert, conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will feature Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem," Felix Mendelssohn's "Grant Us Peace," and two works by Franz Schubert: "Psalm 23" and "Mass in G Major." Vocal soloists will be soprano Annie Schwartz, tenor Benjamin Pattison, and bass-baritone James Shaffran. \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors (62+), and \$15 for students up to age 22. Purchase tickets at [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org) or at the door.

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

**Hitchcocktober: Psycho (1954).** 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween.

Tickets are \$10. Visit [angelikafilmmcenter.com](http://angelikafilmmcenter.com).

### THURSDAY/NOV. 1

**Submission Deadline.** The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax will be accepting work for its next open art exhibit in December. This artwork will illustrate *Mystery and Solstice* - the theme for worship at UUCF in the month of December. All types of media qualifies, including painting, photography, mixed-media, and the written word. The deadline to submit a jpeg image and application is Nov 1. Artwork will be hung on Friday, Nov. 30 and should be picked up by Jan. 6 and 7. All sales will be handled by UUCF with a 20% commission given to the organization. Email [artspeaks@uucf.org](mailto:artspeaks@uucf.org) to request a submission form.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 2-4

**"The Story of Hansel and Gretel."** Friday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. At The Stage at Holy Trinity Church, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Cost is \$10. Purchase tickets at [bit.ly/oshanselgretel](http://bit.ly/oshanselgretel). Visit the website [www.oakcrest.org](http://www.oakcrest.org).

**McLean Farmers Market.** Fridays through Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-noon at 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 3

**Bulb Sale.** 8 a.m.-noon at Town of Vienna Farmers Market, on the grounds of the Vienna Community Center. The Ayr Hill Garden Club presents its annual bulb sale supporting the community gardening efforts of the Ayr Hill Garden Club. Email [emilielarson@rcn.com](mailto:emilielarson@rcn.com) for more.

**Vienna Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, through Nov. 3 at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The Vienna Farmers Market, hosted by the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, has more than 30 vendors from across the region, the Vienna Farmers Market provides locally-sourced fruits and vegetables and homemade eats. Throughout the year, great music will be featured. Visit [www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/](http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/) for more.

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email [kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org) for more.

**Great Gatsby Night.** Cocktails and dinner, 6 p.m.; performance, 7:30 p.m. at Vinson Hall Community Ballroom, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. The Tysons McLean Orchestra will feature Pianist Thomas Pandolfi performing Rachmaninoff and selections from the 1920s and '30s. Dinner and performance, \$200 per person. Contact [info@tysonsmcleanorchestra.org](mailto:info@tysonsmcleanorchestra.org) or call 703-893-8646.

**Cancer Research Fundraiser.** 7-10 p.m. At Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept - Flame Room, 400 Center Street, South, Vienna. Come to a wine tasting and silent auction hosted by Upsilon Gamma. Have fun while raising money for cancer research. Cost is \$20 per ticket includes two wine/beer, hors d'oeuvres, and several door prize opportunities. A Wine Pull and a cash bar will be available. Auction Items include restaurant gift cards, specialty baskets, massage services. Get tickets at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sip-and-shop-mission-possible-fundraiser-tickets-50561085568>

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## Public Meetings

### Fall Transportation Meeting

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, as well as Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and the VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment and Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and discuss your ideas and concerns about Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a public comment period, where you can provide comments about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted via email or online at [www.CTB.Virginia.gov](http://www.CTB.Virginia.gov).

Public Meetings\* to be held at the dates, locations and times listed below:

<b>Monday, October 15, 2018 at 4 p.m.</b> Culpeper District Office 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	<b>Wednesday, October 17, 2018* at 4 p.m.</b> Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	<b>Monday, October 22, 2018* at 4 p.m.</b> Southwest Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210
<b>Thursday, October 25, 2018* at 2 p.m.</b> (Note: Start time has changed) Holiday Inn - Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	<b>Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 4 p.m.</b> Hampton Roads District Office 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	<b>Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 4 p.m.</b> Homewood Suites-Chester 12810 Old Stage Road Chester, VA 23836
<b>Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4 p.m.</b> Lynchburg District Complex Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	<b>Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 4 p.m.</b> Fredericksburg District Office Auditorium 86 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405	<b>Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.</b> NOVA District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

\*These meetings will be held in conjunction with planned I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan meetings. Fall meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning October 15, 2018.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or <a href="mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov">Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov</a> .	You may send comments on rail, public transportation, and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or <a href="mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov">DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov</a> .
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Comments will be accepted until December 13, 2018.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).



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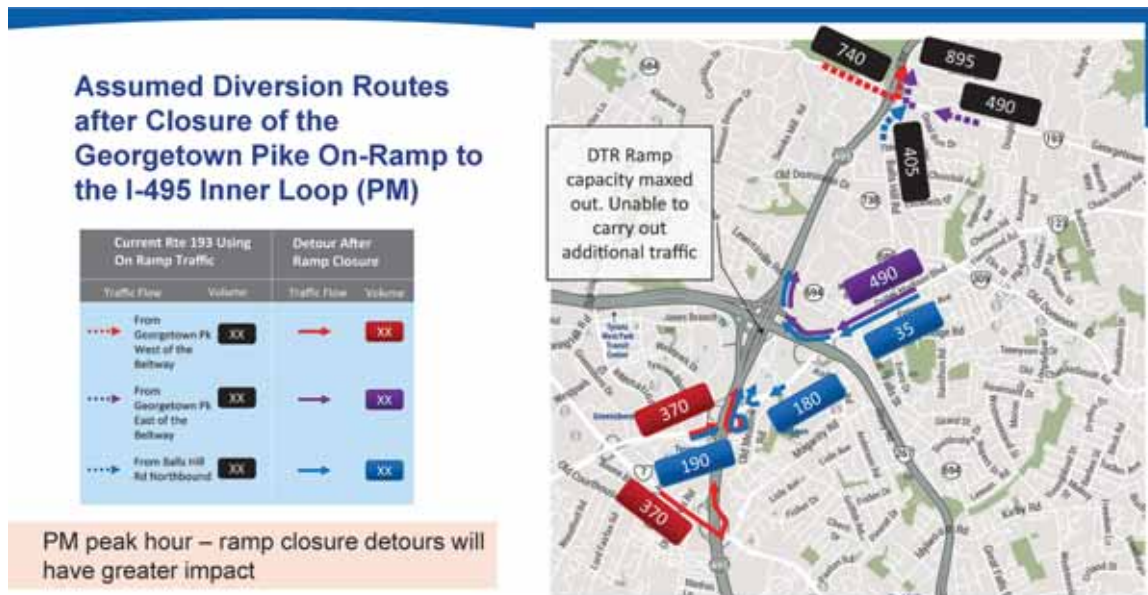
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# News



A chart from the VDOT presentation that projects the diversion of cars from the affected areas by the closure of the northbound I-495 ramp at Georgetown Pike on weekdays, from 1-7 p.m.

## Public Debates Proposed 495 Ramp Closure

FROM PAGE 2

questions and comments session began.

“Because we had announced that we would hold a second meeting to give as many citizens as possible the opportunity to participate and be heard,” responded Richter, adding that with schools back in session, vacations weren’t keeping people from attending.

The short and intermediate term actions already taken or underway, as well as the close-the-ramp proposal are all the results of studies and meetings dating back to the Spring of 2017, when VDOT received numerous complaints and requests for involvement from residents of the neighborhoods along Georgetown Pike and the surrounding secondary roads.

**RESPONDING TO PREVIOUS CONCERNS** that the shut-down would “simply move the traffic elsewhere and cause problems further down the line,” Moore reported that the studies suggest that traffic flow on the Beltway might actually show marginal improvement by closing Georgetown Pike access.

VDOT acknowledges that the notion of simply closing down a major entry point onto the Capital Beltway as the means to keep locals from being trapped in their own neighborhoods by cut-through traffic is a radical solution and “full engagement by the stakeholders is essential.”

Moore also told the crowd “we all know that ultimately the traffic build-up in this area and the sometimes dangerous use of neighborhood streets as cut-through alternatives won’t be permanently solved without addressing the real problem – the American Legion Bridge carrying more than 200,000 cars daily between Virginia and Maryland.

“So it’s not a solution that Virginia can initiate on its own.”

Moore and Richter both added that VDOT and other Commonwealth officials were in frequent engagement with their Maryland counterparts and announced that another public meeting, addressing these wider issues, would be scheduled for early in the New Year. Citizens were urged to keep informed and attend if possible.

It was that knowledge that real relief in the form of American Legion Bridge improvements — or some say, a new bridge over the Potomac — are years away, that had the outnumbered proponents of the pilot program willing to give the ramp closure a try.

Years away and confronting miles of red tape “longer than the whole Beltway,” is why McLean resident Jonathan Rodgers says he is for the trial run. He sees the only other solutions as equally “out of sight” like limiting the ramp to area residents or cars with Virginia tags only. “We just can’t go on this way.”

Rodgers was in the minority among the public commentators, although another man, who works in College Park and lives in affected Langley Forest waited out the crowds to be sure and vote yes to close access.

“Is it a great solution? No. But at this point, sometimes we can’t get out of our own driveways during the peak hours – which seem to be longer and longer. It’s not even safe to walk the streets in our neighborhood, forget trying to cross one. This is something we can at least test and try without high cost or legal obstacles, so let’s see what impact this has.”

Living across Georgetown Pike from Langley Forest, one Churchill resident agrees. “We have to try something,” he insists, worried about the safety of his own, and other’s children as more and more cars use local streets as cut-throughs. “And they are always in a hurry.”

Closing access to the Beltway has support of Langley High School parents, teachers and staff as reported in a recent survey on the proposal.

Residents who oppose the ramp closure speak to the same issues – dangerous non-resident driving, gridlock on residential streets, safety factors, obstacles to participation in school activities, and more. Several people, backed up by supportive shouts and applause, brought up recent incidents where local children had been struck by cars “passing through” the neighborhoods, to which one proponent declared himself “appalled” that the nay-sayers would “put personal inconvenience ahead of a child’s safety.”

**BUT THE OPPONENTS** still don’t see VDOT’s proposal as the answer.

For one thing, closing the ramp would be like “punishing local residents for the problems you created,” said the very first resident on the comments line. Just like travelling commuters, those who live in the area would also be prohibited from using the ramp, and in most cases would have to travel considerably out of their way, in the opposite direction from their intended destinations, to enter onto I-495. “Locals are

SEE RAMP CLOSURE, PAGE 13

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# Ramp Closure Debated

FROM PAGE 12

obviously not one of the criteria that you are considering with your solutions,” said that resident.

Nicole Ritchie of McLean and many others, reprimanded the VDOT representatives for “not listening to citizens in the first place” and sending HOT lane travellers out onto the Beltway right before Georgetown Pike. Opponents say there are changes that can be made there that will immediately improve the situation, even without changes to the existing bridge or the construction of a new one. “Right now they exit the lanes and start criss-crossing all over the highway. Make the Hot Lane exit further back.”

The massive and continuing development of Tysons also received the wrath of many of the residents.

Ritchie, who lives in the Dolley Madison/Lewinsville Road area angrily declared that with “all the high-rises, the enormous Capital One campus expansion, all the tolls, our area is slowly being closed off, like an island. Soon we won’t be able to move.”

“Thanks,” added Brian Palmer. “Shame on the elected officials who keep rubber-stamping all this development without the roads and infrastructure needed to support it. All done poorly.”

Through much of the comment session, the VDOT representatives listened attentively, but quietly, occasionally answering a question, but mostly just allowing the residents to have their say.

“They could have presented their case a bit better,” remarked long-time McLean resident Victor Kimm.

Kimm is as concerned about the traffic issues in the area as his neighbors and equally desirous of safety for area children and for his neighbors to have access to their own streets and driveways, but Kimm says he is looking at the numbers when “trying to find the balance.”

He is not satisfied that VDOT has truly provided all of the information needed, but his review of the materials still shows several thousand cars per day that would be diverted from the area by the ramp closure.

“That alone will have to better the current situation.

“Of course, closing the ramp would affect locals who use it, but we need to think about the trade-off, how big is that impact, inconveniencing how many, versus how much traffic in the neighborhoods and local roads could be improved.”



ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**Nicole Ritchie of McLean doesn't think VDOT is addressing the real, bigger issues when tackling gridlock on local arteries.**

Kimm has been asking VDOT for those numbers – how many cars/residents would be negatively affected, versus the numbers diverted from the pilot area which VDOT has provided in their study – but so far, hasn’t gotten that answer. Side conversations with VDOT reps at the meetings leave Kimm thinking that VDOT would agree that the numbers would support moving forward with the test project, but there’s nothing on record or in the data provided to validate his suppositions. Still, he’s a “yes” on the pilot. “It doesn’t cost much and provides more real information, not just models and projections, and that’s much needed to make a decision of this magnitude long lasting.”

**VDOT** lists the next steps for the pilot program as

- ❖ Continue to seek public input to gauge support
- ❖ Summarize and evaluate feedback
- ❖ Decide whether to advance the pilot project forward, abandon the pilot, or place it on hold, and communicate to the public
- ❖ Decision to move forward will require strong local support, clearly an uphill battle

VDOT is still taking comments and questions on their website at [www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/mclean\\_traffic\\_analysis.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/mclean_traffic_analysis.asp), via email at [meetingcomments@vdotvirginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@vdotvirginia.gov) (including “McLean Traffic Analysis” in the subject line), or by mail through Nov. 13.

CALENDAR

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## OPINION

### Comstock

FROM PAGE 6

❖ **Fighting for our Veterans:** Barbara has fought for better health care and choice for our veterans and she worked with local and federal officials to bring a Veterans Community Access Center to Leesburg – in just 8 months — which now provides a wide range of services for Veterans as well as active duty military personnel and their families.

❖ **Battling the Opioid Crisis:** Barbara has fought the opioid crisis, working with local sheriffs, schools, hospitals, churches, faith-based groups to address the addiction crisis. She fought for \$4 billion in new resources for coordinated responses and treatment as well as law enforcement help. She obtained HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Assistance) for the western part of the district and has led efforts to increase this funding.

❖ **Fighting for Metro Funding:** Barbara has secured \$150 million in funding for Metro every year she has been in Congress – sometimes having to fight attempted cuts by her own Republican colleagues. Barbara also introduced much needed Metro reform legislation that was endorsed by the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, former D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams and bipartisan leaders and business groups.

❖ **Protecting Dulles Airport:** Barbara has had to fight the extremely powerful Texas Con-

gressional Delegation to protect Dulles Airport when her Texas colleagues tried to change the flights in our region at Reagan and Dulles Airports. With this victory, Dulles Airport will remain a thriving economic engine for our entire region.

❖ **A Stalwart for Federal Employees:** Barbara is the only member of the National Capital Region to never vote for a government shutdown and she firmly believes that we cannot balance the federal budget on the backs of our hardworking federal employees. That is why she worked to broker a bipartisan agreement with her colleagues to include scheduled pay increases for federal employees. The political action committee for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) supports Barbara.

❖ **Preserving our History:** Barbara works with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and The Journey Through Hallowed Ground and its partners to preserve the hallowed ground of the Valley's Civil War battlefields, to share its Civil War story with the nation, and to encourage tourism and travel to the Valley's Civil War sites and increase economic growth tied to our historic sites, parks, restaurants, and hotels. She has continued to support grants for preserving our historical areas and that is why she has strong support from our heritage community as well as our tourism and hospitality community.

❖ **Tax Cuts for Families and Businesses:** Barbara delivered on tax relief for our families and

businesses; lowering personal tax rates; doubling the child tax credit to \$2k and giving 90 percent of Americans increased take home pay; providing new tax incentives for family leave; lowering utility costs; cutting business taxes by 40 percent and tax cuts for small businesses all helping bring back jobs to the U.S. and grow our economy by over 4 percent. That is why Barbara has the endorsement of the U.S. Chamber, NFIB and all the major business groups – she works with and understands our diverse business community.

❖ **Claude Moore Colonial Farm:** Barbara is fighting to preserve this historical landmark in our community that we supported decades ago and she has introduced legislation to keep the farm open and broker a continued public-private partnership solution so that families can enjoy it for years to come.

For these reasons and more, Barbara Comstock is a leader in every sense of the Virginia way and is always fighting for her constituents and the District. It is important that the region continue to have bipartisan leadership in Congress because one-party domination in our region would ill serve many of our constituencies that need both parties fighting for their interests.

We strongly support her in her re-election to Congress this year, and ask 10th Congressional District residents to vote for her on Nov. 6.

**Senator John Warner**  
**Congressman Frank Wolf**  
**Congressman Tom Davis**

### SNAP

FROM PAGE 6

after mid-November or later.

We have commended many thoughtful Republicans in the US Senate who voted for the constructive Senate version.

Billing the House version as pushing allegedly “lazy” people to find work is demagoguery, because the great majority of SNAP recipients are either people who already have low-wage jobs, seniors,

people with disabilities, or unemployed people who are doing their best to find work, and SNAP already has programs to help people to find work.

SNAP benefits are very small at approximately \$1.43 per person per meal, so there is no incentive for people to avoid work and try to “live off” SNAP, formerly known as food stamps.

This program has a waste and abuse level of a little over 1 percent, which is very good for such

a huge program. There are always a few bad actors in any program involving about 39 million recipients and about 766,000 people in Virginia, and government officials are doing their best to eliminate waste and abuse. The program is sound.

**Lee Powell**, Economic  
Equality Caucus Virginia Committee  
**J. Walter Tejada**, Virginia  
Latino Leaders Council

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**Free Sober Rides.** Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 28, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's “Promo” section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com). The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

#### THROUGH NOV. 9

**Food Drive.** Drop-off canned goods at Sheehy INFINITI of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Sheehy Auto Stores will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Harvest Food Drive to benefit food banks serving each community. Benefiting food banks include the Oxon Hill Food Pantry, ECHO, Manna Food Center,

Central Virginia Food Bank, Ashland Christian Emergency Services (ACES), Fauquier Food Bank, House of Mercy, Emmaus Center, Samaritan Project, The Light House, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, Perry Hall United Methodist Church, SERVE, Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank and Food for Others.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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# BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 14

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 24

**Tysons 2050.** 4-8 p.m. at Hilton Tysons, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, Tysons. Tysons 2050 is a community-building event, focused on sharing insights and visions from thought-leaders helping transform Tysons. Panelists will discuss the challenges, opportunities, and developments that are on the immediate and distant horizon. \$75. Call 703-281-1333 or visit [www.tysonschamber.org/tysons-2050](http://www.tysonschamber.org/tysons-2050) for more.

**MCC Governing Board.** 7:30 p.m. at the MCC Administrative Offices, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. All meetings of the Governing Board are open to the public. Tax district residents (Dranesville District-1A) who wish to speak during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting are asked to call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 to be placed on the agenda. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 25

**Public Comment Deadline.** The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) announces a 45-day public comment period for its proposed policy and guidelines for transit capital prioritization and urban transit agency strategic plans. The proposed plans are available online at [drpt.virginia.gov/transit/tsdac/public-comment](http://drpt.virginia.gov/transit/tsdac/public-comment). Comments on the plans can be sent to Jen DeBruhl at [DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov) or DRPT, 600 East Main St., Suite 2012, Richmond, VA 23219.

## SATURDAY/ OCT. 27

**VolunteerFest.** A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php) for more.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 30

**Learn to Prevent Bullying.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. You Can Help Prevent Bullying: Strategies for Parents. Workshop to learn what is bullying, bullying in a cyber world, bullying vs. harassment, signs to look for and ways to prevent and support. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) to register.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 2

**Introduction to Special Education.** 10 a.m.-noon. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring; Entrance 1 - Room 100. Workshop that will serve as an orientation for parents new to Special Education. The workshop will outline the special education process and resources will be shared. Knowledgeable staff will be able to answer your questions. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) to register.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

care, is national in scope and a monopoly with no checks or incentives to keep it honest, efficient, and competitive. One need only look at Venezuela and all the socialist experiments that came before to appreciate socialism's effect on the economic sector and the people living under such a system. It has always been the people, not the governments that have been hurt under socialism. It is this that Republicans reject, not the scope-limited government programs that help our citizens. Mr. Donahue himself needs to revisit the definition of socialism. While he's at it, he might want to review his candidate, Jennifer Wexton's "results." None of her bills have been signed into law.

**Marty P. Smith**  
McLean

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## Resorting to Radio



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

There I was, Wednesday evening, Oct. 17, around 6:30, sitting on my living room couch, club sandwich in hand, preparing for the League Championship Series game 5 between my Boston Red Sox and the Houston Astros when as I've done a thousand times before, grabbed the remote to turn on the television. Pressing the usual button, I was distressed to see no picture and hear no sound. Having experienced this kind of disappointment numerous times before, I didn't panic yet. I went about the diagnostic process first.

I checked my remote to see if the batteries were firmly connected, which they were. I then pointed the remote back at the television, but still no response.. Next, as I have been prompted previously under similar circumstances ("Your X-1 platform ..."), I pulled the plug and waited 30-plus seconds before reconnecting. Thirty seconds later, I re-plugged and still my television sat idle. Next I went into my home office to check the status of my computer since they're "cableized" together. The lights on my modem were flashing (a hopeful sign) so I clicked on one of my desk top icons and was met with the dreaded "No internet connection," confirming my worst suspicion. For the moment, 90 minutes before game time, I was out of service (heck, I was out of luck). Finally, I called my cable provider for clarification/further confirmation when I was met with the equally dreaded pre-recorded message: "There has been a service interruption in your area. Service is expected to be restored tomorrow afternoon." "TOMORROW AFTER-NOON? THE GAME IS TONIGHT!" That was the exclamation I can print. What came next was not particularly complimentary.

For the next hour or so I puttered and muttered and did nothing to improve my circumstances. At 9:30 pm I called my brother to get a score. (He lives in Washington, DC and has a smart phone. I live in Maryland and have a flip phone, a k a "stupid phone"). Unfortunately, he had left his cell phone in another room and didn't hear my call. Frustrated, I swore yet again and trudged upstairs to go to bed. After getting into my "jammies," I laid down in bed and rolled onto my left side to set the alarm on my clock radio when it hit me (not the clock radio); the baseball game is being broadcast on the radio! And so I scrolled the dial on the clock radio until I heard ESPN radio broadcasters John Shambee and Jessica Mendoza calling the game. If I can't watch the game, I can certainly listen to it. And so I did, just like I did as a "little-leaguer" all those many years ago listening to Ken Coleman and Ned Martin of the "Boston Red Sox radio network" while living on Athelstane Road in Newton Centre, Ma. Except this time, I wasn't clutching a transistor radio. I was hands free, listening.

For the next nearly three hours, I laid in bed and listened. Most of the broadcast I heard and some of it I missed as occasionally I fell asleep. But for a time I was transported back in time sort of, before cable television proliferated when the games were broadcast almost exclusively on radio and baseball was seen through the eyes of those sitting in the "Catbird seat," to quote the legendary Red Barber. Listening to how they described what they saw during the game was how many of my generation - and the preceding generation, fell in love with baseball: "How about that!" to quote the late, great, Mel Allen.

It was a late night, but happily, for me and Red Sox Nation, the Sox won and will now be returning to the World Series for the first time since 2013. Game one will be Tuesday night, Oct. 23. I can't imagine that there will be a repeat non-performance from my cable provider, but if there is, and I am forced to go to plan "B", radio, I will do so. The circumstances got us a win in game five, so there's no reason to think it wouldn't get us a win in game one, too. After all, it's not only the ballplayers that are superstitious.

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