

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

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Latin Dance Team in 2019 Herndon Homecoming Parade, 'Into the Future.' Parade combined school pride with town's special culture.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

OCTOBER 23-29, 2019

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

ONGOING

Jack's Pumpkin Glow. Through Oct. 27, at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Enjoy an immersive Halloween stroll along a trail illuminated by thousands of intricately carved pumpkins, many highlighting the Capital City's most famous including pumpkin look-alikes of iconic landmarks, musicians, movie stars, superheroes and princesses. Master carvers provide tips on how to create your own masterpiece during live pumpkin carving demos. Delicious fall food and beverages at a newly expanded concessions area. Tickets start at just \$16.99 for children and \$22.99 adults, www.glowpumpkin.com/washington-dc.

Fiber Artist Anne Smyers. Through Oct. 30, at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Smyers exhibits art quilts reflecting her love of flowers and botanicals, which she uses to create gardens, mandalas, and cultural commentary. Visit www.annesmyers.com.

A Gentlemen's Guide to Love & Murder. Through Nov. 9 at Reston Community Center's CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Players presents "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder," the 2014 Performances dates: October 18, 19, 25, 26, 27*, November 1, 2, 3*, 8, 9. Starts 8 p.m. (*2 p.m. matinee). Tickets: are \$28/adult; \$24/seniors and students. Visit www.restonplayers.org or 703-476-

4500 x3.
Murder Mystery Theatre. 6:30-9:30 p.m., through Nov. 9 at StageCoach Theatre, 20937 Ashburn Road, Suites 115 & 120, Ashburn. "Murder on the British Express" — The British Express, the most elegant train of the 1950s, is bound from Northern England to London when the train comes to a sudden halt. On board are passengers, a mummy and the renowned detective, Hemlock Holmes. As passengers begin to mysteriously die, the famed detective must walk in the steps of the pharaoh to find a murderer most foul! Cost: \$60-65 with dinner, \$25 without dinner, varies by date. Email: info@stagecoachtc.com. Visit stagecoachtc.com/murder-on-the-british-express/.

Herndon Farmers Market.

Thursdays, through mid-November, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Historic Downtown Herndon, Lynn Street. Vendors will offer seasonal plants, produce, baked goods, meats and more; all sold by local growers and producers. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/FarmersMarket for more.

Reston Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon at Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. The largest of the Fairfax County Farmers Markets. SNAP accepted www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/reston.

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

Bernstein Does Broadway. 12:30-1:30 p.m. At Reston Town Square Park, Reston. Lunchtime with the Arts at Mason. Students from Mason's nationally-recognized jazz studies program play into autumn with standards and pages from the popular repertoire. Free. Presented by Reston Community Center in partnership with GMU College of Visual and Performing Arts. Hosted by Reston Town Center Association. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

OCT. 24-28

Washington West Film Festival. At Bow Tie Cinemas in Reston Town Center. With films from China, Germany, the United Kingdom, and other countries, this year's lineup features one of the festival's most diverse schedules to date. A highlight is the spotlight that it puts on local filmmakers. This year's selected films showcase a variety of perspectives on Washington, D.C. including "Miss Virginia," which features a powerful performance by "Orange is the New Black's" Uzo Aduba as a mother, based in the inner-city of Washington D.C., who launches a movement to give her son a better education and save his future. wwfilmfest.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 25

Spooktacular. 6:30-8 p.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The event features Halloween games, crafts, and a magic show by the High Energy Magic of Speed. Children who are ages 3-8 are invited to wear a costume. Each participant will receive a bag full of treats. Parents must accompany children at the event. Cost is \$11/advance; \$15/day of event. Sign up at the Herndon Community Center or visit <https://herndonwebtrac.com>.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

Open House. 10 a.m. to noon. At The Goddard School, 2400 Dulles Town Blvd., Herndon. Trick-or-treating; fun games; crafts. Enjoy fun activities for children six weeks to age 5. Receive a special tour of The Goddard School's FLEX (Fun. Learning. Experience). Now enrolling. Limited space available. Call 703-653-0337.

UCP Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. This juried fair showcases a wide variety of quality handcrafted items from 33 area craftspeople. Lunch and a bake sale will be available. Free Admission and Parking A portion of the proceeds will benefit Herndon-Reston FISH www.unitedchristianparishartandcraftfair.com.

Myths & Monsters Storytime. 12-12:30 p.m. At 1609-A Washington Plaza North, Reston. Get excited about Halloween by listening to a reading of Myths & Monsters of Reston. Candy will be handed out as supplies last. Event is free and open to the public. Programs of the Reston Historic Trust & Museum are supported in part by Reston Community Center. Free. Visit the website: restonmuseum.org
Halloween Family Fun Day. 12-2 p.m. At RCC Hunters Woods, Reston.

Free. For infants to age 8. Come dressed in your favorite costume and enjoy sensational performances perfect for the whole family. Peter McCorty, a famed one-man band, will put children into the Halloween spirit at 12:00 p.m., followed by Bob Brown's Puppets in "Monster Madness" at 1:15 p.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult guardian (18 years and older)

Family Day. 12-3 p.m. At GRACE, 12001 Market Street, #103, Reston. GRACE opens its doors for a free day of spooky family art making and exploration in the gallery and park celebrating the exhibition featuring artist Nate Larson! Come celebrate Halloween All ages. Sponsored by Reston Community Center. Free and open to the public.

Trick or Treat at Reston Town Center 12-4 p.m. At the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Costumed children can celebrate Halloween with visits to participating retailers and the Guest Center for treats and goodies. Look for the pumpkin flyer in the window. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Ghost 5k & Scarecrow Sprint Fun Run. 3 p.m. At the Barn at One Loudoun in Ashburn. The Scarecrow Sprint will kick off the races at 3 p.m. with the 5k starting at 4 p.m. The event centers on the spooktacular theme of Halloween and incorporates a costume contest, a "haunted" 3.1 mile course and a pre-race HYPE party starting at 2 p.m. with dance demos, interactive games, and MORE! Great fun for the entire family. Runners are encouraged to run in costume and enter the costume contest after the race or just come as a runner. Register on-line at www.Ghost5k.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

Trick-Or-Tri Event. 9 a.m. YMCA Reston and CORE Foundation have teamed up to produce a new multi-sport event, the indoor Reston Trick-or-Tri. There is no better time to set your sights on giving tri a try than now or to extend your triathlon season if you are an avid triathlete or returning to the sport. The best reward is that after after 60 minutes, you will be a triathlete, receive a medal, and have a lot of fun while achieving your goal. Cost is \$35 registration - YMCA non-member; \$50 registration - non-member. Send your story of "Y you tri" along with a photo to info@corefoundation.org. If you are interested in being an event sponsor, reach out to info@corefoundation.org. Proceeds from this event are charitable and will be distributed between the Reston YMCA and CORE Foundation to support the underserved communities that are jointly served.

Amazon Rainforest Fest. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Pony Barn Picnic Area, Steeplechase Drive and Triplecrown Road, Reston. The event will feature live entertainment, a yard sale, Amazon Park Rangers station, kids crafts with recycled items, Amazon photo exhibit, silent auction, Halloween decorations, and more. Kids and adults will have fun while helping the Amazon Rainforest. All the activities are free. Proceeds from the yard sale will be donated to the Amazon Conservation Team. Visit <https://nvvetnutrition.com/amazonrainforestfest/>

West Coast Swing Lesson plus Social Dance. 5-8 p.m. At Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St. #1, Herndon. Instructor Tim Bowker and partner Laura Martin will teach West Coast Swing, 5-6 p.m. Classes videotaped for individual review. Basic skills recommended. Social dancing, 6-8 p.m. WCS crossovers and ballroom, Latin, Hustle contemporary mix. \$10; \$8, USA Dance members. Email herndonsocialdancers@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/herndonsocialdancers.



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★ SHOW HIGHLIGHTS ★

THURSDAY OCT 24, 7PM Barn Night "Halloween on Horseback"	FRIDAY OCT 25, 7PM Military Night Puissance High Jump	SATURDAY OCT 26, 6:30PM World Cup Night President's Cup
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Herndon neighbors gather on a porch and on the front lawn of a home along Elden Street to enjoy the 2019 Herndon Homecoming Parade.



The new Herndon WinterMarket, opens Dec. 14.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

2019 Herndon Homecoming Parade, 'Into the Future'

Parade combines school pride with town's special culture.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The 2019 Herndon Homecoming Parade themed, 'Into the Future,' kicked off Saturday morning, Oct. 19. More than 1500 participants in 66 units participated in the parade, according to a town spokesperson. Participants started at Herndon Middle School on Locust Street and marched down Elden Street to the Town Hall Square.

Herndon High School Principal Liz Noto, Mayor Lisa Merkel, Vice Mayor Sheila Olem and Councilmembers Jennifer Baker, Cesar del Aguila, Pradip Dhakal, and Bill McKenna presided over the parade.

A long-time Herndon tradition filled with school spirit and neighborly camaraderie, friends and residents knew what to do. They lined the sidewalks of Elden Street with folding chairs, wool blankets and brought along snacks and drinks. Children brought bags to catch the tossed candies. Other viewers gathered at porch parties. All came to celebrate and support everything Herndon High - the Herndon Band: The Pride of Herndon, members of Homecoming Court, class floats, and more in preparation for the 1 p.m. football game against McLean High School.

Seated in his lawn chair on Elden Street, Erik Althoff, HHS Class of '99, recalled he marched in three parades. "This ain't my first rodeo," he said. Melissa Gischeidle, a Herndon Elementary School teacher, yelled, "Go, Herndon."

"I love coming to the parade and seeing the marching band," she said. School high-



Members of the Herndon Band: The Pride of Herndon hold the parade banner announcing the 2019 Herndon Homecoming Parade.

lights included the Latin Dance Team and Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

What set the 2019 Herndon Homecoming Parade apart from other parades appeared to the welcoming spirit of organizers, allowing private citizens and community groups to formally march in the parade, and shine a spotlight on their passions. Among the many-featured units was Model Nepali Society, U.S.A.; Into the future with Opportunity Neighborhoods, Cornerstones; Herndon Village Network and Clearview Elementary School.

Elizabeth Vosseller watched the parade go by, removed her sunglasses and wiped tears from her eyes. Not usually given to emo-

tion, Vosseller grinned and said,

"It makes me cry because I live here, in this dorky little town. And I love it."



Herndon community members line the sidewalk along Elden Street to enjoy the 2019 Herndon Homecoming Parade.

During the afternoon's Homecoming football game, the McLean High School Highlanders defeated the Herndon High School Hornets 41 to 2.

Awards

Judges selected and awarded trophies to the First and Second Place winners in the Civic, Performing Arts, School, Show and Class Float categories and also chose the Richard F. Downer theme award and the Major Robert C. Church Best in Parade winners.

Civic Group: First Place – Cub Scout Pack #157; Second Place – Herndon Optimist Youth Sports

Performing Arts Group: First Place – Herndon High School Step Team; Second Place –

Rhythm Street Dance Academy; School Group: First Place – Herndon Elementary; Second Place – Clearview Elementary

Show Group: First Place – Madison Forest Drive Neighbors; Second Place – Next Stop Theatre 'Matilda'

Class Floats: First Place – Class of 2020; Second Place – Herndon Middle School

Richard F. Downer Theme Award: Herndon Woman's Club

Major Robert C. Church Award: Best in Parade – Herndon High School Class of 2022

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SENIOR LIVING

2.4 Million Older Adults Identify as LGBT

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A married father of five, George Murphy seemed to have it all. The successful construction company he founded, afforded him luxuries such as private school tuition for all of his children, a sprawling home in McLean, Va., and a marriage that spanned more than three decades. Still, something was missing: a satisfying romantic life.

"I loved my wife but I was not sexually attracted to her," said Murphy, now 62 and in a seven-year relationship with a man 20 years his junior. "I've known since I was 16 that I was attracted to men, but I kept it hidden. I grew up in southern Virginia and there's no way it would have been acceptable."

According to the American Psychological Association, more than 2.4 million adults over 65 in the United States identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, with many coming out later in life. During October, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Month, advocates are working to raise awareness of the particular issues facing older adults.

"Many of the issues are emotional," said Bethesda marriage and family therapist Carol Barnaby. "If you think about it, feeling like you're being forced to lead a double life can cause a laundry list of issues."

Anne Whitty grew up in a devoutly Irish Catholic home, one that disavowed any romantic relationship that wasn't heterosexual. "We were taught that relationships with someone of the same sex were one of the worst types of sins," she said. "But I've known that I was lesbian since I was 30."

Now the 62 year old grandmother of four, who is married to a 73-year-old woman, says she feels liberated and finally able to live as she feels she was intended. "I'd felt a low-grade depression for most of my adult because there was a part of me that I tried to pretend didn't exist," she said. "When I was growing up, that was something that we didn't even discuss, so I was never able to get help."

"Being forced to live most of your life as someone you're not can be overwhelmingly stressful and lead to depression," adds Barnaby. "So many older adults – and younger people too – use alcohol and even drugs, to squash those feelings, which in reality only compounds them."

Seniors like Whitty, whose sexuality is at odds with their religious upbringing, can find themselves suddenly disconnected from an important part of their lives, says Barnaby. "To be accepted is something that most of us want, but when you're suddenly rejected by a source of comfort that you've had for 40 or 50 years, it can lead to incredible loneliness, especially if you've also been rejected by some family and friends."

Suddenly experiencing discrimination for the first time in one's life can be perplexing, advises Barnaby. "For those who've never had to deal with being treated differently because of the way they looked, suddenly being singled out as a minority can be tough."

In spite of the emotional obstacles that those who decide to come out after a marriage and family, the outcome makes the effort worthwhile. "I feel like I'm finally free," said Murphy.

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OPINION

Speaking Truth About Redistricting

School boundary changes can be in the taxpayer, school management, and students' best interest.

BY ADAM SIEGEL

Rumors, confusion, and fears about school redistricting are rampant in this year's School Board election campaign. For whatever reasons, some seem intent on misrepresenting the situation. Writ large, people resist change they don't understand and are passionate in defending their children. These misrepresentations seem intent on stoking parents' emotions through promoting fears of harms to their children's lives and futures. And, sadly, conversations I've had with neighbors and acquaintances indicate these disinformation efforts are having an impact and suggest that stepping back to look at basic realities of redistricting consideration is warranted.

As a small background, for seven years I served on the Fairfax County School Board's Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC). The School Board formed FPAC a decade ago after the very contentious decision to close Clifton Elementary School. From its start, FPAC has struggled to provide thoughtful advice and perspectives to the FCPS staff and School board about boundary issues.

The truth is that FCPS boundaries are complex, often involve legacy issues from decades ago, and are far from optimum in fiscal, building use, traffic congestion, and student health and performance terms.

For years, a standing FPAC joke was that we

lock one of our members (a senior State Department facilities planner) in a room for 24 hours with a red pen and he'd come out with a solution to all these problems. That "let the expert be expert" approach, however, simply wouldn't be practical due to reality that these decisions can involve the lives and passions of thousands of people who will speak up, forcefully, to their elected representatives.

The FPAC sought to help FCPS toward a reasonable approach to redistricting. We had, in shorthand, some basic principles that guided our thinking:

COMMENTARY

- ❖ Seek to reduce bus transportation: All things being equal, spending more time on buses hurts student health and educational achievement. Can redistricting lead to more walking (going to local schools) and shorter bus rides?

- ❖ Foster continuity: All things being equal, student mental health and educational achievement is stronger when students move through school with people they know.

- ❖ Optimize building use: All things being equal, students perform better with schools "at" (rather below or over) capacity.

As an example, let's look at the existing McLean High School/Longfellow Middle School and Langley High School/Cooper Middle School. Right now, McLean and Longfellow are overcapacity (with more crowded hallways and students in trailers) while Langley and Cooper at under capacity (with fewer students and resources than what

the schools are designed to handle). A major contributor to this situation is one of FCPS's largest "islands" that sends about 20 percent of Spring Hill Elementary students to McLean/Longfellow rather than to Langley/Cooper, where the vast majority of Spring Hill students go. Addressing that "islanding" answers affirmatively all three of the core principles: better building use; continuity of cohorts; and reduced time on buses. If acted on, the community would have lower costs, reduced traffic on congested streets, and improved outcomes at all four schools. And, students would (writ large) be healthier and have higher educational achievement. While this doesn't mean that "island" should be washed away, these real benefit streams should be part of the discussion.

Amid the school board race, some are trying to stoke fears that children might be ripped from their schools and bused to the other end of Fairfax. Honestly, I have yet to find any serious player in school planning discussions who advocates anything like this. In fact, I have uniformly encountered thoughtful and informed examination of complicated issues with people striving to come up with paths forward that will serve everyone's — especially students' — interests.

We like continuity, fear change, and fiercely want to protect our children. School redistricting discussions hit like a bombshell on these accounts.

Misinformed (if not malicious) rumors are throwing gasoline into the situation and inhibiting moves to solve real challenges.

Redistricting can be in the taxpayer, school management, and students' best interest. Let's have an honest engagement to foster better use of our tax dollars with happier and more successful students.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Endorsing Fahey for Commonwealth's Attorney

To the Editor:

We are the three Deputy Commonwealth's Attorneys for Fairfax County. Collectively, we have over 40 years of experience prosecuting criminal cases in Fairfax. We have prosecuted cases against some of the County's most dangerous predators, while being responsible for training and supervising dozens of Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys. We write today, to endorse Jonathan Fahey, Independent candidate for Commonwealth's Attorney. Jonathan is a not an ideologically driven politician. He is a pragmatist, and a widely experienced prosecutor who will build on our many successes in reducing crime and helping crime victims while working to fix the shortcomings in our system.

Earlier this year, Ray Morrogh, the veteran and well-regarded incumbent Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney, was narrowly defeated in the Democratic primary by a can-

didate funded mainly by hundreds of thousands of dollars of out-of-state PAC money. That candidate has no experience with Virginia law or Virginia's courts, in which he has never practiced. He was a tax prosecutor for the federal government who now works in the field of behavioral health. He ran on a "reform" platform that has taken over in cities such as Philadelphia and Chicago — jurisdictions that continue to be plagued by a level of crime we want to keep at a considerable distance.

On his first day, the Commonwealth's Attorney must be ready and able to make decisions on complex criminal matters including murder, sexual assault, robbery and, occasionally, police misconduct cases. He must mentor new assistants, and must be steeped in the traditions and mores of the Fairfax County courts — traditions that have brought us both safety and respect. Jonathan is such a person; his opponent is

not.

That is why, as current members of the Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney's Office with over 40 years of prosecutorial experience among us, we give Jonathan our strongest endorsement. Jonathan has almost 20 years' experience as a prosecutor trying cases at the Virginia state and federal level. He will be ready the first day. Jonathan worked in this Office and then at the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria. He is endorsed by Democrats and Republicans alike, and is thus the only candidate in the race with bipartisan backing. He is also endorsed by law-enforcement groups in the County. He is running as an Independent because he believes the position of chief law enforcement officer for the County should be, and under his leadership it will be, set apart from political influence or ideological extremes.

As longtime members of this Of-

fice, serving under proud Democrats Bob Horan, Jr. and Ray Morrogh, we know sensible, hardworking, dedicated prosecutors when we see them. Jonathan Fahey is that candidate in this race. Without Mr. Fahey, the Office is certain to lose some if not most of its valuable, experienced prosecutors — prosecutors who've fought hard for crime victims while striving to ensure defendants are treated fairly and respectfully. On Tuesday, Nov. 5, please vote to continue the first-rate Commonwealth's Attorney's Office that our County has enjoyed for more than half a century and cast your vote for Jonathan Fahey.

Casey Ligan,
Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County
Kathy Stott,
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County
Robert McClain,
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County

Oak Hill & Herndon
CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS

Celebrating Visionary Contribution in Fairfax County

ARTSFairfax 2019 Arts Awards

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At ARTSFairfax 2019 Arts Awards on Oct. 18, the nonprofit organization presented a total of five awards in four categories to six honorees: Emerging Arts Award - NextStop Theater Company; Arts Achievement Award - Foon Sham; Arts Philanthropy Award - Stephen Roberts; Jinx Hazel Award-The Honorable Sharon Bulova; and Jinx Hazel Award - Shashi and Margaret Gupta. Held at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, the event brought together 350 arts supporters, many dignitaries, civic leaders and philanthropic contributors to celebrate the exemplary honorees for their exceptional arts contributions and impact on the community and beyond.

Tim Sargeant, Vice-Chair of the ARTSFairfax Board, served as Master of Ceremonies. He kicked off the awards luncheon by welcoming to the stage Shelly Hazel, ARTSFairfax Board Chair. She described the impact arts made on her young life when music and art teachers gave her “courage and confidence” and when life seemed to be continually changing due to frequent moves. “That’s why I dedicated my life to helping others discover the beauty and strength music and fine arts can teach every one of us.” She added that not only did the program celebrate arts creators and philanthropists but also celebrated everyone in the audience, “our arts champions.”

President and CEO of ARTSFairfax, Linda Sullivan recognized elected officials and thanked event sponsors, Reston Community Center and Wolf Trap for the Performing Arts along with all other sponsors. She introduced Justin Fairfax, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. Fairfax said the arts were a catalyst for the Northern Virginia community and economic development. “The arts are not only about our quality of life but our economy. The arts in Northern Virginia alone add about 7,000 jobs to our region, [millions of dollars] in arts-related spending annually, and five million people participate in the arts every single year,” he said. Fairfax gave a “special round of thanks and recognition” to the outgoing chairman of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sharon Bulova, “a champion for the arts, for our community who made Fairfax, I believe, the best place to live in the United States of America due to her diligence [and] her caring.”

Virginia Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) presented a Proclamation from the Virginia House of Delegates to Margi Vanderhye of McLean, a former delegate from the 34th District of Virginia and former Executive Director, Virginia Commission for the Arts. “We all know arts heal our soul. Margi has served this community ... and she has been accused of being a relentless warrior for the arts, and we all know that is very true. The arts thrive in Virginia because of her support,” Murphy said.

Vanderhye said it was a remarkable thing to be acknowledged by people she respected and admired for doing something she deeply and passionately loved and cared about, and had the honor and privilege of doing it as a Gov. McAuliffe appointee.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Evan Hoffman, Artistic Director of NextStop Theatre Company in the Town of Herndon accepts both his crystal award and ceramic vessel in recognition of the professional theatre company named ART, SFairfax 2019 Honoree-The Emerging Arts Award. From left, Vicki Kyle President of NextStop Theatre Company Board of Directors, Hoffman, State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33) and Lisa Merkel, Herndon Mayor.

2019 ARTS AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Each Honoree received a certificate, crystal award and a hand-thrown ceramic vessel commissioned and created by artist Bikki Stricker of Falls Church.

Steven Roberts received the Arts Philanthropy award in recognition of his significant investment and creation of the first donor fund at the Northern Virginia Community Foundation dedicated to the arts. As a component of the Foundation’s Permanent Fund.

“It was a great surprise to be selected for this, but on the other hand, it’s not every day a new fund for the arts gets established in Northern Virginia... I can now announce, in two weeks, we will be proceeding with the second donor cycle ... and we will be sending out invitations for proposals from arts organizations and artists. ... The Ross-Roberts Fund is part of the permanent fund of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.”

Honoree Foon received the Arts Achievement Award for his sculptures, primarily of wood.

Emerging Arts Award was presented to NextStop Theatre in Herndon and Producing Artistic Director of NextStop Theatre Evan Hoffman, and Vicki Kyle, President of the Board of Directors, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

SEE ARTS AWARDS, PAGE 8

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BULLETIN

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

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meetings in 2019

12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Oct. 29, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting
Nov. 19, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting
Nov. 26 Committee Meetings
❖ 9:30 a.m. - Economic Advisory Commission
❖ 11 a.m. - Personnel Committee
❖ 1:30 p.m. - Legislative Committee
❖ 3 p.m. - Budget Committee
❖ 5 p.m. - Audit Committee
Dec. 3, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting
Dec. 10 Committee Meetings
% 9:30 a.m. - Health, Housing and Human Services Committee
❖ 11 a.m. - Development Process Committee
❖ 1:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
❖ 3 p.m. - General Assembly Annual Reception and Work Session

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

2019 North/West Fairfax County Distinguished Citizen Dinner. Powhatan District BSA recognizes a distinguished business and civic leader, Frederick P. Baerenz, President & CEO of AOG Wealth Management. Join for a Great Evening — Celebrate the impact of BSA Scouting in our area. Benefit BSA programs for boys and girls in North/West Fairfax County.
6 p.m. Reception, Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar
7 p.m. Dinner & Program.
Location: River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Contact: Raymond.Posluszny@Scouting.org. Call 202-669-3548. For online registrations: <http://bit.ly/2LYfhGt>

MONDAY/OCT. 28

NARFE Dulles Chapter Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Meets at Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. Morgan Canterbury of Blue Cross / Blue Shield (Anthem) will speak on updates to health benefits. The cost of the luncheon is \$18 which includes tax and gratuity. To reserve a spot, call Shirley at 571-442-8910 no later than Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019.

Bus Service Meeting. 7-9 p.m. At Herndon Middle School Cafeteria, 901 Locust Street, Herndon. Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a second round of community input meetings and engagement opportunities to encourage public input on alternatives developed to provide enhanced Fairfax Connector bus service in the Reston and Herndon areas, including connections to the future Metrorail Silver Line Phase 2 stations in Herndon and Reston. The service alternatives were developed based on public input received through community engagement earlier this year, stakeholder engagement and technical analysis. After this round of public engagement, FCDOT staff will develop a preferred service plan to provide better access to destinations, improved travel times, increased schedule reliability and more dependable service. The community will have an opportunity to review and comment on the preferred service plan in early 2020.

TUESDAY/OCT. 29

DMV2Go at the Pavilion. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go.

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“Maturation”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When I heard this word used recently, twice, I thought it was one of my father's made-up words like “surgerize” and “conffliction” risen from his memory to finally enter the world of Merriam-Webster. And so they have, sort of. Apparently, “maturation” is a word some doctors use to answer any and all questions asked by patients inquiring as to why something or other health wise is happening to them. In short, “maturation” means wear and tear. If Mick Mulvaney were the doctor, he might have said: “It happens all the time. Get over it!” Fortunately, he wasn't. Rather, he is the acting White House Chief of Staff, a man who likewise may be asking his doctor a few questions. The answers to which will likely not be “maturation.” “What were you thinking?” might be first and foremost.

For a cancer patient (yours truly) who has survived above and beyond the call of his oncologist's original prognosis, “maturation,” to quote Boston Red Sox television announcer - and Hall of Famer, Dennis Eckersley, “Is a beautiful thing.” Diagnosed at age 54 and a half when all bodily functions were “performing within normal parameters,” to quote Commander Data from “Star Trek: Next Generation,” thinking I'd outlive my original prognosis from late February, 2009, and have senior-type moments 10-plus years later, was unrealistic, if I were to interpret my oncologist's rather grim demeanor.

Yet here I am, Medicare card in wallet and still writing cancer columns as if cancer was only an astrological sign rather than the dreaded - and feared disease, that it is. However, having cancer doesn't mean that I don't experience similar aches and pains as the rest of you. It simply means “Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, how was the play?” A sarcastic reference to the fact that other things are still occurring, despite the obvious. Cancer doesn't preclude other older age medical realities from rearing their predictable ugly head: gray hair, bone loss, muscle weakness, memory loss, to name a few; it just complicates them and in so doing, confuses you.

It complicates them by ignoring them for fear that they are cancer-related and thus life-threatening and visiting a doctor would merely confirm your worst fear: dying/death, an upside down version of what you don't know not hurting you. And by neglecting to see a doctor, the symptoms (for me, it was a pain in my upper left arm/shoulder which turned out to be a rotator cuff problem) becomes worse and more severe than it otherwise would have become if you simply went to the doctor in the first place, and you end up suffering needlessly because it's actually not cancer, it's “maturation.” So you're confused like “Bob's Big Boy” used to be: You don't know whether to stay or go.

When you're diagnosed with a “terminal” disease,” you want to live, but it's extremely difficult not to think about dying. It dominates your brain and preoccupies your mind. Old age and living a full retirement become signposts in the distance that you can never quite read. And since you can never quite read them, you're not really prepared for what they say. Some of what they say - or infer, is that you're going to be visiting doctors more regularly than you ever have, and it's not necessarily all bad. It's merely a sign of your times which are now changing and you're living beyond a certain age, unexpected as it may have initially been suggested. As such, maintenance will be required to keep the older body and brain functioning. Ignoring symptoms, as my doctors have made clear to me, is NOT GOOD. Neither is assuming that such and such or so and so is good, bad or indifferent. It is what it is and it may be something or it may be nothing. Presuming facts and feelings which are not yet in evidence is a bit like putting the cart in front of the horse.

I know I'm afraid of dying. What these more recent pains and subsequent visits to the doctors have also shown me is that I can't be afraid of living.

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

Celebrating Visionary Contribution in Fairfax County

FROM PAGE 6

The video presentation described NextStop Theatre as one of the fastest-growing professional theatre companies in the metro region transitioning in 2013 from its early beginnings as an all-volunteer organization. NextStop Theatre employs more than 100 professional artists annually and serves 15,000 audience members.

Hoffman said when he initiated his career; he thought he would have to leave Fairfax County. "So much of building this organization is changing this concept for the next generation of artists, so they don't have to think that making their life, their career and following their dreams of working in the arts is something they have to give up, to be part of this community."

This year, **ARTSFairfax** presented two Jinx Hazel Arts Awards.

"Our first awardee is Margaret and Shashi Gupta in recognition of the significant and impactful support they have provided for Early Childhood education in the arts," he said. The Gupta co-founded Apex CoVantage, an international technology company based in the Town of Herndon. The Guptas' donated \$1 million in support of Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, a program of Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. It marked the largest individual gift in the 35-year history of the Wolf Trap Institute.

Upon receiving the award, a long-time supporter of education and the arts, Honoree Margaret Gupta said, "Being recognized for our support of Wolf Trap's Arts Infused Education Program means the world to us...Arts is one of the most effective ways to reach children and this program is remarkable. ... It means so much to us; our gift is going to enrich the lives of disadvantaged children."

ARTSFairfax also honored Chairman Sharon Bulova "in recognition of the tremendous work she had done to make Fairfax a great place to live, work and play. She supports the arts broadly and significantly."

Bulova said the county is known for being a community of A-types. "We like to tackle challenges. ... The arts and culture in Fairfax County are what we work hard for. Entertainment, beauty, creativity. Things that make us laugh. Things that make us pause ... things that touch our heart."

HONOREE REACTIONS

Jinx Hazel Award- Honorees Margaret and Shashi Gupta: "We are delighted and honored to be receiving the prestigious Jinx Hazel award. Being recognized for our support of Wolf Trap's arts-infused Early Learning program means the world to us, and we hope it inspires others."

Jinx Hazel Award - Sharon Bulova: "It really is an honor to receive the Jinx



Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, accepts both her crystal award and ceramic vessel created by artist Bikki Stricker of Falls Church from Linda S. Sullivan, President and CEO ARTSFairfax in recognition as the 2019 Honoree for the Jinx Hazel Arts Award.

Hazel Award. Fairfax County has a vibrant arts community that has enriched the lives of every resident, including my own. It's what makes Fairfax County feel like home. I am thankful to have played a role in developing Fairfax County's arts community, and I look forward to enjoying it for years to come."

Arts Philanthropy Award - Honoree Steve Roberts: "This award is a great honor for me and encourages me to continue in my unfamiliar role as a philanthropist. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the launch of a new arts fund for our community. With the help of other donors, the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia can become a significant new resource for arts groups and artists in Fairfax County and all of Northern Virginia."

Emerging Arts Award-Honoree Evan Hoffmann, Producing Artistic Director of NextStop Theatre Company: "NextStop is so honored to be receiving this prestigious award from ARTSFairfax. It is hard to explain all of the time and energy that countless artists have put into making NextStop the company that it is today. To have that effort recognized and celebrated by our community is a testament to the strength and potential of the creative will in Herndon and all of Fairfax County."

Arts Achievement Award-Honoree Foon Sham: "In any given community, most of us are working on practical needs, in jobs that are intense and hectic but necessary for survival. A balance is needed to satisfy our minds and souls, such as images and objects that are pleasing, visually in-

spiring or relaxing. Art is another form of communication; it is just as vital as books, songs, and newspapers, etc. Artists need to convey with their messages or share what they see is beautiful, and what they think is important.

"Give [the viewer] a unique experience they never had before. Give them hope and peace. Give them joy and excitements. Give them something to share with others, ideas, visions and tastes. Give them an opportunity to think."

GUEST REACTIONS

Justin Fairfax, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: "Thank you all for your tremendous leadership. Let's continue to invest in the arts, in our families and in our communities. ... and make sure we lead the way in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America."

Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors-Sharon Bulova (D): "Our diversity creates a rich fabric of arts activity that we might not otherwise enjoy. Our communities are filling out with more civic activities and amenities due in large part to the arts." -

U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-11): "I hope [the arts] is something we integrate better into our communities. There was a time we were so busy building things, expanding that the arts were something nice to do when we got around to it or could afford it. But successful communities and successful cultures integrate the arts into their lives. And certainly, we want a robust arts community in Fairfax County. We want public art. I want to see sculpture. ... As you know, the President zeroed out



Recipient and ARTSFairfax 2019 Honoree- Jinx Hazel Arts Award, Margaret Gupta thanks ARTSFairfax for the award and honor on behalf of herself and her husband, Shashi. The couple donated \$1 million in support of the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, the largest individual gift in the history of Wolf Trap.

all funding for the arts in the budget and done that three years in a row. Congress to its credit has ignored that and fully funded the arts."

Melody Fetske, Board Member NextStop Theatre Company: "Evan has been a force of nature."

Lisa Miriam, Director of Grants and Services ARTSFairfax: "I love this event bringing together people passionate about the arts. I walk out of here feeling inspired."

Kathy L. Smith, Fairfax County Supervisor (D- Sully District): "The arts are such an important part of our community, and it is great to see so many people here supporting the arts."

Lisa Merkel, Mayor Town of Herndon: "I'm so proud to be here with so many arts supporters (and)...proud of NextStop Theatre... I encourage everyone to see their current show, 'Pride and Prejudice,' running through Oct. 27, followed by the family event of the year, 'Matilda,' Nov.14-Dec. 22."

Arvind Mancacha, President and CEO Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts: "Margaret and Shashi Gupta show leadership through their philanthropy because they believe deeply in community causes."

Robert Goudie, newly appointed Virginia Commissioner for the Arts and Board Chair Greater Reston Arts Center: "No one (Margaret and Shashi Gupta) has a deeper commitment to the arts locally, regionally and throughout the Commonwealth."