

# Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

## Pumpkin Palooza — Outdoor Fun for Everyone

NEWS, PAGE 12

Landon Moore-Brewer, 5, of Centreville paints his rainbow pumpkin while sister, Jamie, 12, keeps the paint from flying at Pumpkin Palooza on the Herndon Town Hall Square; the children's mother Stephanie works at Herndon Parks and Recreation.

## Affordable Housing Options In the Town of Herndon

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## Election 2019: Generation Gap

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# Go VOTE Nov. 5

OPINION, PAGE 4

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## Generation Gap Millennials and Gen X now outnumber older voters, but Baby Boomers continue to dominate.

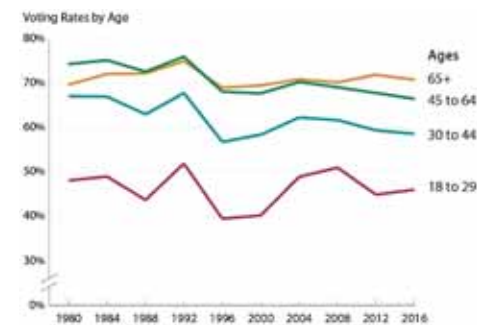
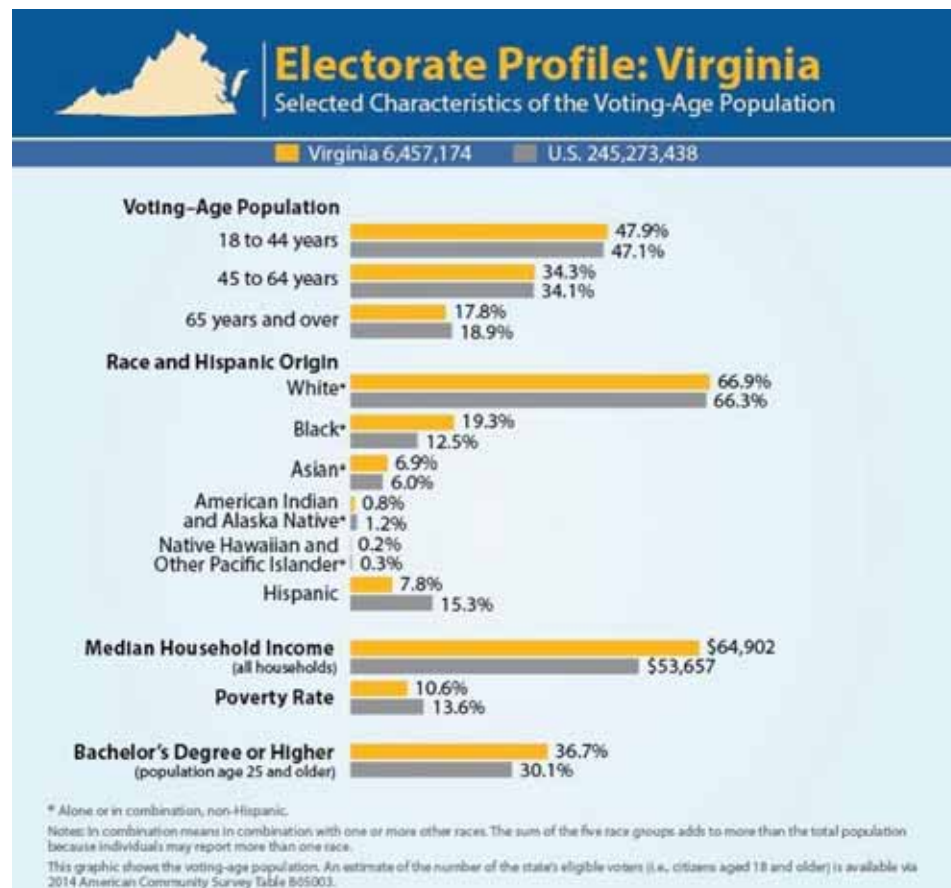
BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**M**illennials and Gen Xers now outnumber Baby Boomers and older voters in Virginia, according to data from the Census Bureau. But that doesn't mean they have as much influence. Census numbers also show another trend: People over the age of 45 vote at much higher rates. That means Baby Boomers are expected to once again exert outsized influence in next week's election despite the fact that they are now outnumbered by ranks of younger voters.

"We talk about the Baby Boomers so much because they were a phenomenon unto themselves in some ways," says Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University. "As they aged, they participated at high levels, and those participation levels stayed pretty high."

Voters across Virginia will be heading to the polls next week in a high-stakes election that will determine which party controls the House of Delegates and state Senate. All 140 seats in the House and Senate will be on the ballot this year. Election officials expect turnout to be about 30 percent, much lower than the 60 percent of registered voters that show up to presidential elections. That means voters who show up to the polls will be older, whiter and much more likely to be Republican.

"Virginia has a lot of immigrants. Immigrants tend to be younger and tend to have more kids, and those voters with that profile tend to lean Democratic," says Jeremy Mayer, associate professor in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. "So why are the Baby Boomers still dominating? Because that demographic votes, and tends to vote with ex-



SOURCE: UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

traordinary reliability."

Mayer says he sees a similarity between the victory of Donald Trump in 2016 with a victory of Brexit that same year, two elections where the interest of older voters overwhelmed the interest of younger voters, a phenomenon he calls a "revolution of the elderly." This election is also expected to be dominated by Baby Boom voters, although eventually millennials and Gen X voters will catch up and become the dominant force in Virginia politics.

"Of the new registered voters in Virginia for this election, a large ele-

**"Why are the Baby Boomers still dominating? Because that demographic votes, and tends to vote with extraordinary reliability."**

— Jeremy Mayer,  
Schar School of Policy and  
Government at  
George Mason University

ment are indeed the 18 to 29 year olds," says Bob Denton, chairman of the Department of Communications at Virginia Tech. "There is going to be a political sea change, not so much on demographics per se but on political beliefs, attitudes and values of the Millennials and Generation Z."

Four years ago, when Virginia had no statewide races and every member of the General Assembly was up for election, about 30 percent of registered voters showed up to the polls and cast a ballot. Turnout statistics were pretty much the same for the election four years before that as well as the election four years before that. Democrats are expected to do well if they can push the turnout numbers above 30 percent, even if it's only a little bit.

"The early voting numbers suggest a significantly higher trajectory," says Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. "Based on the number of candidates running in the Virginia mid-term this year as well as polls, including the Mary Washington statewide survey that shows a high level of voter interest in 2019, all indications are that this Virginia midterm will have much higher turnout than four years ago."

### Free Training Class For Community Emergency Response Team

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and disaster medical operations.

Students are also provided with basic personal protective equipment for the training that they may retain upon completion of the course. This training does not require any physical strength or agility.

Who can take the CERT Training? Anyone who lives, works or plays in Fairfax County is eligible to take CERT training, all ages 16 and up, and all physical abilities are welcome.

Sign up now, next class starts on Nov. 7.

Next Class: Basic CERT Class – Green Acres/Fairfax City on Nov. 7, 12, 14, 19, 21; Dec. 3, 5, 10, 2019. Green Acres School/Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 – 10 p.m.

To register for the class, visit: [https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp\\_details/185223](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/185223)



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE

**The training prepares residents to help themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the event of a disaster.**

# OPINION

# Go Vote! Election Day Is Nov. 5.

It matters more than ever; do your part, don't miss this chance.

- ❖ Nov. 2 Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 5: Deadline for your absentee ballot to ARRIVE at the Office of Elections, 7 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 5: Election Day, Polling Places open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fairfax County Office of Elections,  
Hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;  
Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 323  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
703-222-0776 TTY 711  
voting@fairfaxcounty.gov  
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/

League of Women Voters of the  
Fairfax Area www.lwv-fairfax.org/

## VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS:

Per Virginia law effective July 1, 2014, all residents must provide valid photo identification when they vote in-person. Please consult the VA Department of Elections for the most up to date information regarding acceptable forms of voter photo ID.

Many types of photo ID are acceptable for voting in Virginia. You only need to show ONE acceptable photo ID to vote. Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired. Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver's license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Employer-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, Virginia Voter Photo ID card

IMPORTANT: If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can still vote. Ask for a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

## OFFICES ON THE BALLOT, FAIRFAX COUNTY

- ❖ Member Virginia Senate, vote for one in your district
- ❖ Member House of Delegates, vote for one in your district
- ❖ Commonwealth's Attorney, vote for one
- ❖ Sheriff, vote for one
- ❖ Chairman Board of Supervisors, vote for one
- ❖ Member School Board at Large, vote for three
- ❖ Member Board of Supervisors. vote for one in your district
- ❖ Member School Board. vote for one in your district
- ❖ Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District
- ❖ School Bonds Referendum

- ❖ Vote both sides of your ballot. Bring notes on your preferred candidates. It's not simple. We have included party designations and, with reservations, the party endorsements for school board. Most candidates do not have party affiliation listed on the ballot.

## VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTER PHOTO ID OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Elections is open during normal business hours to provide residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed.

## SCHOOL BOND BALLOT QUESTION

This is the text of the public school bond question that will be on the Nov. 5, 2019, general election ballot:  
Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$360,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishing and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?

## CANDIDATES, FAIRFAX COUNTY

Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Jeffrey C. McKay (D)  
Joseph F. Galdo (R)

Commonwealth's Attorney  
Steve T. Descano (D)  
Jonathan L. Fahey (I)

Sheriff  
Stacey Ann Kincaid (D) incumbent  
Christopher F. De Carlo (I)

Board of Supervisors, District  
Representatives  
Braddock District  
James R. Walkinshaw (D)  
S. Jason Remer (R)  
Carey Chet Campbell (I)

Dranesville District  
John W. Foust (D) incumbent  
Ed. R. Martin (R)

Hunter Mill District  
Walter L. Acorn (D) unopposed

Lee District  
Rodney L. Lusk (D) unopposed

Mason District  
Penelope A. "Penny" Gross (D) incumbent  
Gary N. Aiken (R)

Mount Vernon District  
Daniel G. "Dan" Storck (D) incumbent, unopposed

Providence District  
Dalia A. Palchik (D), unopposed

Springfield District  
Linda D. Sperling (D)  
Patrick S. "Pat" Herrity (R) incumbent

Sully District  
Kathy L. Smith (D) incumbent  
Srilekha R. Palle (R)

## SCHOOL BOARD

School Board At-Large (vote for three)  
Abrar E. Omeish (endorsed by Democrats)  
Cheryl A. Buford (endorsed by Republicans)  
Priscilla M. DeStefano (endorsed by Republicans)  
Rachna Sizemore Heizer (endorsed by Democrats)

Vinson Palathingal (endorsed by Republicans)  
Ilryong Moon, incumbent (withdrawn)  
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)

Braddock District, School Board  
Zia Tompkins (endorsed by Republicans)

Megan O. McLaughlin, incumbent  
(endorsed by Democrats)

Dranesville District, School Board  
Anastasia S. Karloutsos (endorsed by Republicans)  
Ardavan Mobasheri  
Elaine V. Tholen (endorsed by Democrats)

Hunter Mill District, School Board  
Laura Ramirez Drain (endorsed by Republicans)  
Melanie K. Meren (endorsed by Democrats)

Lee District, School Board  
Tamara J. Derenak Kaufax, incumbent,  
(endorsed by Democrats)

Mason District, School Board  
Ricardy J. Anderson (endorsed by Democrats)  
Tom L. Pafford

Mount Vernon District, School Board  
Pamela C. Ononiwu  
Steven D. Mosley (endorsed by Republicans)  
Karen L. Corbett Sanders, incumbent  
(endorsed by Democrats)

Providence District, School Board  
Andrea L. "Andi" Bayer (endorsed by Republicans)  
Jung Byun  
Karl V. Frisch (endorsed by Democrats)

Springfield District, School Board  
Laura Jane H. Cohen (endorsed by Democrats)  
R. Kyle McDaniel  
Elizabeth L. Schultz, incumbent  
(endorsed by Republicans)

Sully District, School Board  
Stella G. Pekarsky (endorsed by Democrats)  
Tom A. Wilson, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)

Soil and Water Conservation Director  
Northern Virginia District

Vote for Three  
C. Jane Dudik (endorsed by Republicans)  
Chris E. Koerner (endorsed by Democrats)  
Christopher A. Bowen (endorsed by Republicans)  
Edward F. McGovern (endorsed by Republicans)  
Jonah E. "Jet" Thomas  
Monica A. Billger (endorsed by Democrats)  
Gerald Owen "Jerry" Peters Jr., incumbent, (endorsed by Democrats)

## CANDIDATES, GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House of Delegates  
District 34  
Kathleen J. Murphy (D), incumbent  
Gary G. Pan (R)

District 35  
Mark L. Keam (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 36  
Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum, incumbent,  
unopposed

District 37  
David L. Bulova (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 38  
L. Kaye Kory (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 39  
Nick O. Bell (R)

Vivian E. Watts (D), incumbent

District 40  
Dan I. Helmer (D)  
Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), incumbent

District 41  
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent  
John M. Wolfe (I)  
Rachel D. Mace (L)

District 42  
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent  
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 43  
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent

District 44  
Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent  
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 45  
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 46  
Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 47  
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 48  
Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan (D),  
incumbent, unopposed

District 49  
Alfonso H. Lopez (D), incumbent  
Terry W. Modglin (I)

District 53  
Marcus B. Simon (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 67  
Karrie K. Delaney (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 86  
Ibraheem S. Samirah (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## VIRGINIA STATE SENATE

District 30  
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 31  
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 32  
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent  
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 33  
Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent  
Suzanne D. Fox (R)

District 34  
J. C. "Chap" Petersen (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 35  
Richard L. "Dick" Saslaw (D),  
incumbent, unopposed

District 36  
Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 37  
Dave W. Marsden (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

District 39  
George L. Barker (D), incumbent  
S. W. "Dutch" Hillenburg (R)

Oak Hill & Herndon  
**CONNECTION**

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ❖ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

**Mercia Hobson**  
Community Reporter  
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

**Andrea Worker**  
Contributing Writer  
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

**Jean Card**  
Production Editor  
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:  
For advertising information  
sales@connectionnewspapers.com  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

**Classified & Employment  
Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
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CIRCULATION  
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# Affordable Housing Options in the Town of Herndon

Local jurisdiction wrestles with the next step.

By MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Since the start of 2019-2020, Herndon Town Council began a conversation on the limited number of affordable housing units offered in the town, located in one of the wealthiest counties in the United States. According to “Town of Herndon - an Affordable Housing Conversation:” “In Fairfax County, we generally use “affordable” and

A HOME OF THEIR OWN

“workforce” housing interchangeably, with “workforce” meaning up to 120 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). In

reality, most low and moderate income families can’t afford to pay even a third of their incomes.”

But the Town of Herndon did not plan to offer designated workforce or affordable housing units as part of the new Comstock’s Downtown Herndon Center, Stanley Martin’s Metro Square, Penzance’s 555 Herndon Parkway at the transit-oriented core, Crestview Drive Subdivision, Residences at Station, Fairbrook Special Exception Quadrangle Development, nor Metro Square Subdivision, and more.

Councilmembers Cesar del Aguila and Pradip Dhakal stated in an interview early summer 2019 they would take up the affordable housing cause.

The Town of Herndon is developing rapidly on multiple building fronts with the pending arrival of the Metrorail Silverline Phase 2, estimated according to John Boylan, CEO and President of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and moderator for Metro Monday, to open Fall of 2020. The anticipated start date for the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project is sometime early in 2020 according to the town spokesperson. In addition, the town adopted the South Elden Street Plan, a land-use corridor plan which, according to the town website, “...allows for increased flexibility in densities, land uses and building dimensional standards.”

During the Sept. 17 Town Council Special Work Session held in the Herndon Council Chambers, council listened to their first affordable housing presentation, an overview titled, “Herndon Housing, Department of Community Development September 17, 2019.” The introduction provided a foundation of broad-based facts keyed on four areas pertinent to the town: current housing inventory, future growth, efforts supporting affordable housing, possible paths going forward, and more.

**HERNDON HOUSING** highlighted four areas:

❖ Current inventory as of January 2018, with a total of 7,934 dwelling units: 3,049



Herndon Town Chamber, site of the first Housing Discussions, mid-September and mid-October 2019.

detached, 2,385 attached and 2,501 multi-family and nearly 80 percent of all inventory built between 1970-1999. The quoted average 2018 sales prices ranged from condominiums at \$234,044; attached units at \$411,430 and detached units at \$554,750. Meanwhile, rental inventory at the town’s ten commercial properties totaled 1,750 units, part of the total 7,934 dwelling units.

❖ Future growth locations in the town of the South Elden Area Plan primarily multi-family, with potential for over 800 units and protection for existing workforce housing; Downtown Redevelopment Project with potential for 700 units including Comstock; Herndon Transit-Oriented Core (HTOC) with potential for over 3,500 units including Penzance, and Fairbrook with proposed 900 units, totaling nearly 6,000 new housing units.

❖ Efforts supporting affordability with the newly formed town staff position of Housing and Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator funded through Fairfax County. The single person staff member assisted lower-income owners to remain in their homes and provided maintenance and reinvestment in the town’s more affordable neighborhoods, however, not noted in the presentation, the position did not include cash funding sources for the repairs according to the coordinator, Cory Laws.

In addition, the town’s Comprehensive Plan encouraged policies that maintained and supported a balanced and diverse housing stock while the South Elden Area Plan discouraged the redevelopment of lower-cost multifamily. The presentation noted the Park Avenue Square Apartments, subject for rezoning and lower-cost housing near Metrorail, the Chandon neighborhood, “at-risk.”

Two additional efforts mentioned were Herndon Harbor House by Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority with 120 units for those 62 years and older, fill-

ing “a serious void.” Separate from Herndon Harbor House, the presentation noted the availability of 112 Housing Choice vouchers whose participants paid approximately 30-35 percent of their adjusted income toward rent.

❖ Possible paths going forward to preserve lower and moderate-income housing and preserve older neighborhoods while protecting diversity identified and supported funding sources to enable more significant repairs and in more significant numbers to existing homes. The first was to develop resources to assist homeowners to appropriately modify their homes when modification was needed by providing a roadmap for renovations projects, additional classes (and) neighborhood identification/celebration. A second way was to “identify existing threatened resources and work with Fairfax County and others to save and expand, noting if there were properties in Herndon that could be redeveloped into dedicated affordable housing. A third possible path discussed was proffers, “units or cash toward affordable /workforce.” And finally, the fifth possible path forward could be to consider Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), a separate living unit within a house or detached structure.

During the Second Town Council Special Work Session on Housing held Oct. 17, BrycePerry, Planner/Zoning Administrator Town of Herndon, reviewed some of the previous possible paths going forward discussed in September but expanded details and noted challenges. He mentioned the option to provide affordable and workforce housing through development proffers. Perry described a scenario where a developer would volunteer units as part of a rezoning application.

“The challenge here is really that if the town receives units as part of a proffer, we currently don’t have any mechanism in place to administer and enforce the units.

Of course, partnering with Fairfax County in this regard would be ideal ... it is uncertain if and how this could work,” he said. Perry explained proffers were only “offered not required.” Besides, using a proffer for housing could limit assistance for other town needs such as transportation, utility infrastructure and such.

Moving into a different discussion, Perry focused on “unintended consequences,” such as if a low-income resident received assistance and did improve their home, property taxes could increase. Also, the home’s value could increase and incentive the homeowner to sell their house at a higher price point. The person buying it might not have a lower income.

**ONE WAY** “to protect, preserve and provide” affordable housing Perry said was to open up the town’s Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADO) regulations, as currently the town only allowed ADUs by special exception for the elderly and those with disabilities. Perry mentioned the challenges to expanding ADUs such as sensitivity to neighborhood conservation; impact on parking and infrastructure, as well as lack of enforcement as there was no town staff position to oversee ADU compliance.

Perry shared staff learned the state of Virginia enabled the town to create affordable housing from a land use perspective; however, such was tied to “planned areas, incentivizing the provision of affordable or workforce dwelling units, something that would have to go into the Comprehensive Plan first ... such as the one for the South Elden Area Plan.

During the comment portion of the work session, Town Councilmember Signe Friedrichs asked for clarification on planned areas. “Do we go to Richmond or the county...or do we write regulations ourselves,” she asked. David Stromberg, the Zoning Administrator of the Town of Herndon, replied, “The state has two different provisions for affordable housing and workforce housing, a provision you can put in your local ordinances. The one that Fairfax is under is different than what the majority of the state is under, and we (the town) would fall into that second category. We could do it through an incentive basis, so it would have to be through a rezoning process and in part of that, you are also limited by percentages. You can only grant up to a 30 percent density bonus, but you can only require a maximum of 17 percent of those units to be affordable, the rest have to be market rate.” Bill Ashton, Town Manager, clarified workforce housing fell under a different category, a one to one.

Merkel stated the town was in an unusual position given what its housing stock looked like and the impact affordable and workforce housing might place on an existing neighborhood. “We definitely want to preserve that.”

Councilmember Sheila Olem brought up the area near the H-Mart in the South Elden Street Plan. “We have a lot of people in those

SEE TOWN, PAGE 10



PHOTO BY STEPHEN SMITH-COBB

**Herndon Town Council answers questions from the public at Community Roundtable #3, held Wed., Oct. 23.**

# Herndon Town Council Holds Community Roundtable

**Sparks of new concern amidst routine reassurances.**

By **MERCIA HOBSON**  
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Town Council hosted a Community Roundtable on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon. Reported highlights included routine questions to council on the dates for existing projects, such as those to close on the property sale for the Downtown Redevelopment Project and its construction start, and to open the Herndon Metrorail Station. Lack of affordable housing and a perceived failure of the Herndon brand sparked new concerns.

At the informal venue, members of the Herndon Town Council engaged outside the traditional hearing forum of Town Council intended to obtain public testimony or comment before significant decisions are made. Instead, the venue utilized a round-robin, “what’s on your mind” question and answer format.

Mayor Lisa C. Merkel, Vice Mayor Sheila Olem and Town Councilmembers, Bill McKenna, Jennifer Baker, Signe Friedrichs,

Cesar del Aguila and Pradip Dhakal rotated in given groups to multiple tables where residents and business owners sat.

**THE PUBLIC** asked the mayor and councilmembers to comment on matters of concern to them and get answers.

In interviews after the event, Merkel and councilmembers shared what appeared to them most interested the residents and business owners, the best questions asked and their answers.

Mayor Merkel said people showed interest in the Downtown Redevelopment Project, Metrorail, connecting sidewalks and walkability. “Lots of the usual questions,” she said. “It was nice to be able to point them to our pedestrian plan, which is on next week’s Town Council Agenda and all of the information on our website about downtown.”

McKenna said most of the questions were about the downtown development plan (yet to be executed) and the Herndon Metro Station. “People were asking when everything would be going in. The Metro questions were about ways to get to the Metro and what measures we were taking to make that happen.”

Vice Mayor Sheila Olem said at one point she faced a question she could not accu-

SEE TOWN COUNCIL. PAGE 10

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—Chief Seattle (1788-1866)  
Suquamish/Duwamish chief

# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

**Fall Pumpkin Festival.** Through Nov. 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Ticonderoga Farms, 26469 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. Enjoy the changing of the leaves and the cool crisp air in the great outdoors at our Fall Pumpkin Festival. \$11-\$18. Visit [www.ticonderoga.com](http://www.ticonderoga.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 the D.C. Metro Premiere of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder," the 2014 Tony winner for Best Musical. Performances dates: 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](http://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](mailto:info@stagecoachtc.com). Visit [stagecoachtc.com/murder-on-the-british-express/](http://stagecoachtc.com/murder-on-the-british-express/).

**50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 Mission.** Through Nov. 16, at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum invites you to a special exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission — the first-time humans stepped onto the surface of the moon. The poster exhibition is courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service: Destination Moon. Visit [www.restonmuseum.org](http://www.restonmuseum.org).

**Quilt Exhibit.** Through Nov. 16, Tuesdays thru Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. At Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum at Route 28 and Route 7 in Claude Moore Park, Sterling. This exhibit showcases a selection of quilts on loan from the Waterford Quilter's Guild, Countryside Quilters, the Reston Chapter of Quilters Unlimited, and a vintage quilt from the Loudoun Museum. Free craft and scavenger hunt for children on weekends. Visit [www.heritagefarmmuseum.org](http://www.heritagefarmmuseum.org).

**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. Additional enhancements to the market include seasonal events and entertainment, including "Farmers' Market Fun Days," free performances for the whole family. Visit [www.herndon-va.gov/FarmersMarket](http://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, bonus dollar program. For list of vendors and more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/reston](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/reston).

**Centroid Towns: Like a Passing Shadow.** Through Jan. 4, at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. GRACE presents the next chapter of Baltimore-based artist Nate Larson's Centroid Towns project. Since the first US census in 1790, the United States Census Bureau has been recording the mean center of population as it moves steadily west and south. The first Centroid Town recorded was Chestertown, Maryland, and the projected Centroid of the 2020 census is Hartville, Missouri. Larson will dive deeper into the community of Waterford, Virginia, Centroid Town of 1810. Visit [restonarts.org/exhibition/nate-larson/](http://restonarts.org/exhibition/nate-larson/) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 30

**Off the Shelf Trivia.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. The Trivia Master adds a little scare to the competition. Test your knowledge of books, literary characters, authors and all things book related.

## Tony-winning Musical at Reston's CenterStage

Reston Community Players present "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" at Reston Community Center's CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performances: Nov. 1-3, and Nov. 8-9, 2019 at 8 p.m. With 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 3, 2019. For tickets, call 703-476-4500 or online at [www.restonplayers.org](http://www.restonplayers.org). Note: CenterStage is accessible and offers listening devices for the hearing impaired.

### Rehearsal picture for Reston Community Players 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder:' Aaron Paige as Monty Navarro in a love triangle between the Sibella (AnnaBelle Lowe at left) and Phoebe (Holly Kelly at right).

PHOTO BY  
JENNIFER HEFFNER PHOTOGRAPHY/  
COURTESY RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS



Win great prizes (books, gift cards, etc). Form a team, bring a friend or go it alone. Visit the website: <https://www.scrawlbooks.com/event/spooky-edition-shelf-trivia>

**Creative Response.** 7 p.m. At GRACE in Reston. Join the Greater Reston Arts Center to hear Vanessa Meikle Schulman, an expert in her field respond to the work on view in the gallery. The short presentation will be followed by open conversation. Presenters may include poets, dancers, writers, musicians, visual artists, and more. All ages. Sponsored by Reston Community Center. Free and open to the public. Vanessa Schulman is Assistant Professor of Art History at George Mason University.

**The Sarajevo Haggada.** 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center, RCC Hunters Woods Reston. The Sarajevo Haggadah: Music of the Book creatively interprets this miraculous age-old Jewish text as a universal symbol of exile, return and co-existence. Composer-performer Merima Kljuc's multimedia work for accordion, piano and video traces its harrowing journey. Author Geraldine Brooks will lead a discussion afterward. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or call 703-476-4500. Cost is \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

## SATURDAY/NOV. 2

**Artist-Led Workshop.** 1-3 p.m. At GRACE, 12001 Market Street, #3, Reston. Join photographer Nate Larson who will lead participants through the process of turning simple smartphone snapshots into cyanotype photographs using the power of the sun. All materials included. Ages 6 and up. Residents \$10; non-residents \$20. Sponsored by Reston Community Center. Visit [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

**Bike Race.** At the Bike Lane, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, #110, Reston. 10-Mile - 30-Mile - Metric Century - Century Kickoff and Post-Ride Celebration. Join Lime Connect and hundreds of riders and supporters for a scenic ride across Northern Virginia for a great cause: forging a pathway to success in the corporate workplace for students and professionals - including veterans - with disabilities. Proceeds raised will support Lime Connect's mission to rebrand disability through achievement. Call 703-689-2671.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 3

**Gyotaku.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Learn about the fish living in Lake Fairfax and learn about gyotaku, the ancient Japanese custom of fish printing. Practice the technique on a T-shirt or a fabric bag to keep and take home. This program is designed for participants age 5 to adult. Cost is \$9 per person. Call 703-471-5414 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax).

**History of World War II.** 2 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dr. Harry Butowsky of George Mason University presents part 5 of his 6-part lecture series on World War II: Genocide 1941-1945. Adults, Teens. Call 703-689-2700.

## 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](mailto:herndonsocialdancers@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/herndonsocialdancers](http://www.facebook.com/herndonsocialdancers).

## MONDAY/NOV. 4

**Halloween Candy Buy-Back.** 12-4 p.m. At Tisseront Orthodontics, 11720 Plaza America Drive, Reston. Dr. Tisseront's 14th Annual Halloween Candy Buy-Back benefiting Children's National in Washington, D.C., and our troops overseas. They want to buy your left over candy. \$1 per pound for you and \$1 will be donated for Children's National for every pound as well. All of the donated candy is packaged up with letter of support written by the community and shipped to our troops overseas.

**Anti-Inflammatory Foods.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Min Krishnamurthy, In-Store Nutritionist with Giant Foods, presents a fun, informative workshop on foods that are healthy and delicious and that naturally reduce inflammation in the body. For adults and teens. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events>

**Facebook Live Storytime.** 7 p.m. At Scrawl Books at Reston Town Center. Master story time reader Laura Donnell from Common Ground Childcare shares her talents, impressions and voices during a special bedtime broadcast live on Facebook and archived on Youtube. Join in to hear the stories in the store or tune in online. Call 703-966-2111 or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

## TUESDAY/NOV. 5

**Needle Felting Workshop.** 1-3 p.m. At Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Needle felting is a way of shaping wool into three-dimensional art. Learn needle felting basics and make a project to take home. Cost is \$12 per person. This workshop is designed for participants age 12 to adult, and one registered adult must accompany each registered child in the program. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.

**Bollywood Dance Fitness.** 6:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join us for a fun Bollywood dance fitness class led by local instructor Aparna Rao. No experience necessary. Adults. Call 703-689-2700.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 6

**Author Dr. Azar Nafisi.** 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Iranian-American best-selling author of Reading Lolita in Tehran, Azar Nafisi

has electrified readers with a compassionate and often harrowing portrait of the Islamic revolution in Iran and how it affected one university professor and her students. Cost is \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or call 703-476-4500.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 7

**Author Dr. Charles Thomas Jr.** 6 p.m. At Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Featuring Best Kept Secrets: From Invisible Walk-Ons to Life Champions. The book was written by an athlete for athletes and those with an athletic or personal development mindset. It's a book by a walk-on, for walk-ons, about walk-ons, and the power that we possess to move from feelings of invisibility to life champions. Meet the man who went from a walk-on at Notre Dame to CEO, to best-selling author and radio host.

**Alzheimer's Early Detection.** 7-8 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. At this interactive workshop presented by the Alzheimer's Association, National Area Chapter, you will learn the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's disease and why early detection is crucial. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events>

## FRIDAY/NOV. 8

**Ice Skating Season Begins.** At Reston Town Center, Ice Skating Pavilion, Reston. Rock the Rink on Fridays, 8-10 p.m. Includes DJ music, games and prizes until 10 p.m.; skating continues until 11 p.m. Cartoon Skate is Saturdays, Nov. 9 until March 7, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Share the ice with cartoon characters. College Night is Thursdays, Nov. 14 until March 5, from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Receive \$2 off admission with valid college ID. Call 703-709-6300 or visit [www.restontowncenter.com/skating](http://www.restontowncenter.com/skating).

## NOV. 8-9

**Everything Christmas Sale.** Friday 3-7 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m. to noon At First Baptist Church of Herndon, 681 Elden Street, Herndon. The Closet's annual Everything Christmas Sale. Get a head start on decorating and choosing unique gifts and help your community. All proceeds are returned to the community in grants to local nonprofits and scholarships. You'll find everything from artificial trees to cookie cutters and food tins. Many are one-of-a-kind items. The Closet is a faith-based, volunteer driven nonprofit organization impacting the community through its thrift shop. In 2018, The Closet gave away more than \$94,000 worth of clothing and necessities to needy persons referred by an authorized social service agency or one of our member congregations, as well as donating more than \$125,000 in profits to local organizations and providing scholarships to local students. Visit the website: [www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org](http://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org)

## SATURDAY/NOV. 9

**Sesame Street Birthday Celebration.** 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Come celebrate Sesame Street's 50th birthday! We'll have games, activities, stories, songs and more! All Ages. Call 703-689-2700.

**My Sky Tonight Campfire.** 7-8 p.m. At Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Learn about the constellations and other night sky features while you enjoy a campfire and toast s'mores. Each family will receive a guide to the season's night sky. Cost is \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program. This event is not appropriate for children younger than age 4. Call 703-471-5414 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 10

**Biographer Andrew Marble.** 2-3:30 p.m. At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Meet Andrew Marble, author of Boy on the Bridge, the first-ever biography of John Shalikashvili, one of the United States's greatest military leaders and the first immigrant, draftee, and Officer Candidate School graduate to hold the position of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.scrawlbooks.com/>

**Sideline Band Performs.** 7 p.m. At Bluegrass Barn at Frying Pan Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Tickets are \$18/advance; \$20/door. IBMA Award-winners, Sideline, will perform in Herndon. Visit [www.sidelinebg.com](http://www.sidelinebg.com) or call 703-437-9101



# 'Leading the Way: Women In Power' Launches Locally

Written by Janet Howell and Theresa Howell; foreword by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**uthors Janet Howell of Reston, State Senator for District 32, and Theresa Howell, Janet's daughter-in-law, launched their newly released compendium, 'Leading the Way: Women in Power' on Oct.13 at Scrawl Books in Reston. Due to the number of attendees, staff set up chairs in the hallway lobby of the building, which housed Scrawl Books, located at 11911 Freedom Drive. One of Janet Howell's first sentences caught the audience's attention. Howell recalled three years ago while she and Theresa sat at the family kitchen table, chatting, Theresa lamented while she would like her daughters to get into politics, they didn't know how nor did they have many examples of women who had done anything. In that moment, the Howells' came up with the idea of writing a book for young readers. It would highlight fifty American women who blazed trails and changed the

**Janet Howell of Reston (State Senator for District 32) and her daughter-in-law, Theresa Howell at Scrawl Books in Reston for the launch of their book, 'Leading the Way: Women in Power.'**

PHOTO BY  
MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION



country through politics.

In an interview, the senator and Theresa clarified why they wrote the book, target audience and feedback. "I wanted the book to inspire kids nine and over to become involved in politics and learn

how to be effective... (And) I wanted any child who opened the book, to see someone who looked like them - women representing economic, cultural and racial differences and different political perspectives," said the senator.

Theresa added, "We wanted it to appeal on many different levels. One reader could flip through and enjoy the pictures and stories; another could have it read to them. The stories are of women who built America and overcame obstacles. The book was tested for cultural sensitivities, and my two children, 11 and 14, read it...and had little or no criticism."

While speaking to the audience, Theresa shared one of her favorite women featured in the book. "I honestly, thought everybody else in the world knew about her, but I did not ... Victoria Woodhull. She was the first woman in the United States to ever run for President, and it was in 1872. ... She was a suffragist; she was writing newspaper articles about women's rights; she tried to vote and got arrested."

The Howells wanted the book to be more than just stories about women with the desire to make a difference and improve life for fellow citizens. So they included a special section in their book titled: 'How to Stand Up, Speak Out, and

Make a Difference: A Take-Action Guide.' Theresa explained that next to each biography in the book, readers could find tactics women used to make changes.

"Eight qualities women in the book have... courage, empathy, communication, persistence, resourcefulness, diligence, community, integrity. ... Then next to each woman on her page, we highlighted the three to four things that she identified best in her career." The Howells also printed the attributes on buttons for readers to take with them, one that best represented current qualities or ones they sought to develop further.

"Count me in with people who want you to write a sequel, 'Leading the Way: Part Two' aimed at the teenage audience," said Debra Steppel of Reston.

'Leading the Way: Women In Power,' (Hardcover) written by Janet Howell and Theresa Howell with forward by Hillary Rodham Clinton is available through Amazon and locally at Scrawl Books 11911 Freedom Drive.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A section of the South Elden Street Area Plan - a land-use corridor plan which, according to the town website, "allows for increased flexibility in densities, land uses and building dimensional standards."

# Town Considers Affordable Housing Options

FROM PAGE 6

units (Berkdale Apartments) at risk. So, are they going to all disappear, or are we going to talk about how we can take care of that," she asked. Olem noted the town would lose its service people, those working in the restaurants, grocery stores, drug stores. "These people work in these places, and I don't want to see them all gone," she said, adding she had known many for years.

Councilmember Cesar del Aguila requested if someone now seated on the council with prior council history could articulate what the strategic vision might be and its outcome, hoping he said to reach an agreement on what to do.

Merkel responded, "I think it is our job to set that strategic vision. That's why we are here."

Del Aguila responded, "We knew Metro was coming for 30 years, but surely there has been some thought into what you wanted. This isn't a new discussion. I take it that maybe you or someone who has been on the council for a while, you can say, I think this is what we should be doing."

Olem, who is serving her fourth, two-year term, said, "These discussions have been raised, however, when they were raised in the early 2000s, there was no talk of the rezoning, redevelopment of those two large parcels.

Councilmember McKenna added, "Part of that includes density changes in the FAR, we are talking one to one ... when you are changing that, it increases the chances and probability of those things happening."

Friedrichs continued concern about the Berkdale Apartments having a by-right option and questioned the impact on it when everything else would be rezoned.

Stromberg said, "That's a risk, but the hope is by offering higher densities to the properties around it, that development will occur on those parcels ... anyone at any time can come in and request a rezoning, but that doesn't mean that will match with the small area plan commands for that area gives justification for denying that rezoning request."

Perry offered a return to the topic of ADUs, qualifying they were something the town could 'set up ourselves.'

Merkel agreed, "That is 100 percent town decision; we do not have to rely on anybody else to give us the authority."

Summing up the evening's considerations on various concerns and courses of action, Ashton concurred the town could explore ADUs more deeply. He acknowledged Courts of Chandon in the South Elden Street Plan with a homeowners association would be challenging to redevelop; however, he said that there had been 3-4 sales of single-family homes in Chandon, bought by real estate companies, not individuals.

"Those are close to the Metro and ripped to be flipped ... that is something we should be thinking about in the short term; we have to get our minds wrapped around that area over there," he said. Thinking about midterm needs, Ashton warned they should be looking at the transit-related growth area across from the Herndon Transit-Oriented Core

(HTOC). Long term, they were in the middle of Comprehensive Plan rewrite. "We need to make housing come to the forefront of the plan."

**KERRI WILSON**, Chief Executive Officer of Cornerstones, was one of the last to speak. "We have 112 vouchers. That's such a small number of people who can afford to live in this community ... The issue is none of this is subsidized, guaranteed, or permanent. When we talk about the challenges, such as parking, when we do ADUs and other things, we already have that (parking challenge) because of overcrowding.

"As you think about whatever number is right for Herndon, certainly, I commend everything you are talking about. The issue of preservation is key, and so is looking at South Elden. That is where the majority of the people in one hundred percent of the apartment buildings you are talking about are the people who are struggling every day to make ends meet... It's going to be a number that says, what is it that is in our town, the right balance, the right approach. And certainly starting with a comp plan that says, this is who our town is and what we care about, preserving the character of the place that we all love ... (It) is a great start. And things like working with the faith communities and nonprofit housing developers who can bring the dollars to the projects. Because we can access those federal funds, and work with other partners and tax credits to find that balance. There's your number, pick it."

A part of an occasional series.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN SMITH-CORB

Herndon Town Council answers questions from the public at Community Roundtable #3, held Wed., Oct. 23.

# Town Council Holds Roundtable

FROM PAGE 7

rately answer, how long the town had been working on the current Downtown Redevelopment Plan. Olem told those present if they provided her with their contact information; she would follow up. Olem said she did so, and received many kind remarks afterward.

"The burning question was when will the Downtown Redevelopment start," she said.

Friedrichs recounted the most interesting thing someone said to her was that they wanted people to know how much they loved Herndon Elementary School. "I loved being able to explain things I had not previously understood before coming to council," said Friedrichs. "Such as how development happens, how long the span of planning has to be for a town to experience successful planned growth, and how much people enjoy our town's comforts and community-oriented culture."

**THE QUESTIONS** that commanded the most attention dealt with affordable housing or circled back to it, according to councilmember del Aguila. "The questions that dominated the night were about housing and why people and dollars would come to Herndon. On housing - people wanted to know how many units would be available for lower-income and workforce residents. They also wanted to know when the units would be available. Metro only came up when it was tied to housing," he said.

Del Aguila also noticed he stated people brought up Herndon's current brand iden-

tity ("Next Generation Small Town) and its logo failed to define a shared vision and a plan to reach it. "There is a branding issue or lack of branding for Herndon... Why would families move here, schools, Metro, housing, arts, bike path, walkable community. 'It's On' as a brand has not made the impression it was meant to," recounted del Aguila from public input that evening.

Dhokal stated the best question from constituents during the roundtable discussions involved affordable housing and inquiry to specifics on what the Town Council was doing to address the lack of affordable housing in the town. "My answer ... was we are working on it. We just had a special (town council) work session (on Thursday, Oct. 17) dedicated to housing as a whole, and this was the first time in the town. We have so much to do just to catch up on Affordable and Workforce Housing. We are looking into all the possibilities and alternatives, including partnering with Fairfax county, partnering with other profit/nonprofit organizations like Cornerstones, changing the zoning ordinances, and adopting new zoning ordinances. This is a serious issue and needs to be addressed. We are working on it."

The public can direct correspondence to the Mayor and Town Council to town.clerk@herndon-va.gov. Visit herndon-va.gov/departments/communications-economic-development/economic-development/town-brand for more information on economic development and brand.

# BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://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

**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

## SATURDAY/NOV. 2

**Bus Service Meeting.** 10 a.m. to noon. At Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a round of community input meetings 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. Residents may provide input on the service alternatives by completing the survey at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/herndon-reston-service-review](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/herndon-reston-service-review). Comments can also be mailed to Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033.

**Watershed Clean-Up Days.** 9 a.m. to noon. At South Lakes Drive Park, Reston. Grab a bag and go on a trash scavenger hunt as the Park Authority hosts "Watershed Clean-Up Days" again this fall. Lend a hand by helping to remove tires, bottles, cans and other debris from local waterways. Helping to clear the earth's vital arteries is a great community volunteer project for service groups and students. All ages are welcome. For a complete listing and to sign up as an individual volunteer, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer).

## MONDAY/NOV. 11

**Veteran's Day Ceremony.** 11 a.m. At Town Herndon Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. The Wayne M Kidwell American Legion Post 184 will sponsor the Veterans Day Ceremony. The guest speaker will be Christopher Baity, President of Semper K9 Assistance Dogs. Baity is an OEF/OIF veteran Marine Corps dog trainer and kennel master with three combat deployments, one civilian deployment and two additional overseas deployments with working dogs. He has over 18 years of dog training and handling experience. Currently a Certified Dog Trainer (CDT), evaluator and service dog instructor, Baity is proficient in animal behavior, obedience training, and kennel management.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 15

**Construction Career Fair.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Dulles Expo Center, North Hall, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Interested in a career in building America's infrastructure? Employers will be collecting resumes, discussing current openings, and interview applicants on site. Industry employers are seeking new employees at all levels, from laborers to engineers. This event is free to all job seekers. Visit the website <http://www.nuca.com/careerfair>.

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## "Underwhere" and What



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I don't think I've broken any laws, other than the laws of consumerism, I may have gone over to the dark side. And by 'dark side,' I refer to two elements, one way more significant than the other, both of which I will get to in short order. In the interim, I refer to that most private of previously public purchases: underwear.

The last two times I bought underwear, I did not, as my father before me did so regularly for his two sons: buy from a local distributor. No. I didn't brick and mortar, I did not drive to and from. And neither did I engage with a living being (so far as I know, anyhow). Rather, I simply typed, mouse-clicked and purchased online from a national distributor. And since I wasn't able to touch and feel, my selection was a bit of a leap of faith. Would the fit, style and look satisfy in person much as it had done so online? So far, after having introduced a dozen pairs to their new homes, their owner and his neighbors seem okay with the interlopers. I expect that with the passage of time, the familiarity of it all will wear down any anticipated objections. Still, I imagine there will be an adjustment period.

Those purchases being made, I do feel as if I've crossed a line of sorts. [And the editor is likely to agree and assert selective deletion.] At the very least, consumers and their underwear purchases - and processes, seemed sacrosanct and immune to the lure of the internet. Granted, its presumptive privacy and seemingly endless choices/supply would presumably appeal to one's sense of curiosity. But not having the opportunity to physically pick and choose, and then grab and go to the cashier while glancing at the assorted inventory while you saunter through the department now seems like a lost art. An art that will never again be bid on, certainly not at Christie's anyway. I don't feel guilty exactly, about what I've done, but I do feel as if struck at the very foundation of the consumer's code of decency.

I mean, if one is going to buy underwear online then there really is no stopping the internet's intrusion into our daily lives. And if the artificial intelligence running the sites knows about our most personal preferences, then what's preventing a mass outing of mankind and womankind? To that possible end, I am now going to mention the second element of my recent purchase for which you likewise might have an opinion. This time I have literally gone over the dark side: colors; blue, black, green and gray. The tidy whities of my youth and nearly entire adulthood have had to give way to color. Another break with my underwear past which also seems unforgivable. My father always wore white underwear. How could I, as his son, break with such familial tradition? This is the weight I am now carrying. I'm not exactly leaving the faith but I do feel that I'm definitely disconnecting.

And since these online purchases of non-white underwear are not that recent (six months or so), recently, as in the last month, I have given consideration to yet another total break to how/where I've purchase these non-white "underweares," brand. I have heard multiple radio advertisements on my satellite radio concerning an upscale brand of underwear which has given me pause to rethink how I might further upgrade the neighborhood where my underwear has been residing.

It's been difficult enough changing how I buy my underwear, and then transitioning from whites to colors, but now possibly changing brands just for the sake of some creature comforts? I haven't heard any complaints from the neighbors so why bother? To be cool and comfortable? I thought I was. Apparently not. Dare I break yet another decades-old tradition? It may be too much.

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

# It's Pumpkin Palooza — Outdoor Fun for Everyone

## All things pumpkin squash it.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Town Hall Square turned to a Parks and Rec Pumpkin Palooza fueling the love of the big orange squash.

The Saturday morning event held the weekend before Halloween, provided a variety of activities centered on the seasonal favorite, like a pumpkin derby, pie-eating contest, pick-and-paint pumpkin patch and more, all free fun for the whole family.

While the Manwaring children of Herndon, Huck, 2, Eliza, 4, and Calvin, 6, climbed on the straw bales, mom, Amanda said, “We came into town to look at costumes at The Closet of Greater Herndon, didn’t find anything but found this fun on the Town Square instead.”

Creativity and genius soared in the 14-year-old and younger set that brought their self-designed, non-motorized pumpkin racers to compete in Herndon’s inaugural Pumpkin Derby. Contestants constructed their non-power driven racers incorporating axles and making sure wheels aligned — no skateboards or pre-constructed bottoms here.

Children and youth let their creations rip down a steep incline only to have some crash and spill, but others roll on to victory. Both children and adults tested their yum of pumpkin pie by claiming seats at the pie-eating table, seeded by age in three heats. First place finishers received more pumpkin pie, provided by Sprouts Farmers Market, according to Stephanie Moore-Brewer, Herndon Parks and Recreation Department.

Christy Frogale of Herndon brought her daughter Kayla, 3. “I’m always looking for outside events,” she said. Moore-Brewer, who organized the event, understood the need to motivate and entice children and parents back outside to play without other distractions.

“One of the purposes of Parks and Recreation is to get people out and downtown in our family-friendly community,” she said. Looking around at all the people on the Town Square, the department obviously succeeded.



**Addysen Moore-Brewer, 9, of Centreville joins her brother, Landon, 5, while older sister, Jamie, 12, keeps things in check at the pumpkin painting table, part of Pumpkin Palooza on the Herndon Town Hall Square: the children’s mother Stephanie works at Herndon Parks and Recreation.**



**It’s a ringer for Kayla Frogale, 3, of Herndon at the Pumpkin Ball Toss, part of Pumpkin Palooza held Saturday, Oct. 26.**



**Photo op for the Manwaring children of Herndon at Pumpkin Palooza on the Town Hall Square — Huck, 2, Eliza, 4, and Calvin, 6.**

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY STANLEY STANISKI/COURTESY RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER

**Azar Nafisi, author of ‘Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books’ and ‘The Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books,’ will be speaking at Reston CenterStage.**

## Exploring Great Literature In Oppressive Times

### Best-selling author Azar Nafisi at Reston CenterStage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

An extraordinary evening awaits as Azar Nafisi, the Iranian American bestselling author of “Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books,” shares her clear and distinct observations with CenterStage guests.

Nafisi will have a conversation about her life during and after the Islamic revolution in Iran. Her presentation will be about the formidable work she took on guiding young women into the power of great literature.

Beyond “Reading Lolita in Tehran” Nafisi will have a conversation about her newer works including “The Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books.” It is a memoir about the importance of three key American works of fiction and imagination.

“In literature there is amazing hope even in frightening darkness,” said Nafisi. Reading literature can be “an exercise in freedom and self-realization.”

In “Reading Lolita in Tehran,”

### Where and When

Reston Community Center presents Azar Nafisi, author of the best seller “Reading Lolita in Tehran,” at Reston CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Event on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019 at 8 p.m. Ticket Price: \$15, Non-Reston Ticket Price: \$20. Call: 703.476.4500 or visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com).

Note: Copies of Azar Nafisi’s books will be on sale prior to and after her presentation; and she will sign them.

Nafisi wrote that during her years in Iran, literature was “a critical way of appraising and grasping the world — not just our world but that other world that had become the object of our desires.”

At CenterStage Nafisi will not just speak from her books, but will provide her personal experiences with the “free market of ideas; the need to have exchanges and be curious...to explore what we don’t know. For we need to know our friends and enemies.”

For those less familiar with “Reading Lolita in Tehran,” published in 2003, it is an account of Nafisi while living in Iran as the Islamic Revolution had taken hold. More so, it is about Nafisi bringing together seven female university students to read certain works of fiction with great personal risk.

Nafisi and her students studied Nabokov’s “Lolita,” F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby,” as well as Henry James and Jane Austen. The books studied and discussed were about love and loss, freedom and curiosity, beauty and harmony, as well as the intersections between the personal and the political.

What relevance did such literature have in Nafisi’s risk-taking gamble? It was worth the risk for her seven students “to experience the freedom and value of the imagination. For despite all the limitations they connected through works of the imagination.”

Nafisi left Iran in June 1997. She now lives in the United States. In her 2014 “The Republic of Imagination” Nafisi further keyed on how great literature helps to shape one’s identity. For Azar Nafisi, literature has “transformative powers.” She will share that at CenterStage.