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WELLBEING

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Republicans haven't won a statewide victory since 2009, and now that Democrats have seized control of the House of Delegates and state Senate, Gov. Ralph Northam declared Virginia "officially blue" at a raucous victory party in Richmond Tuesday night.



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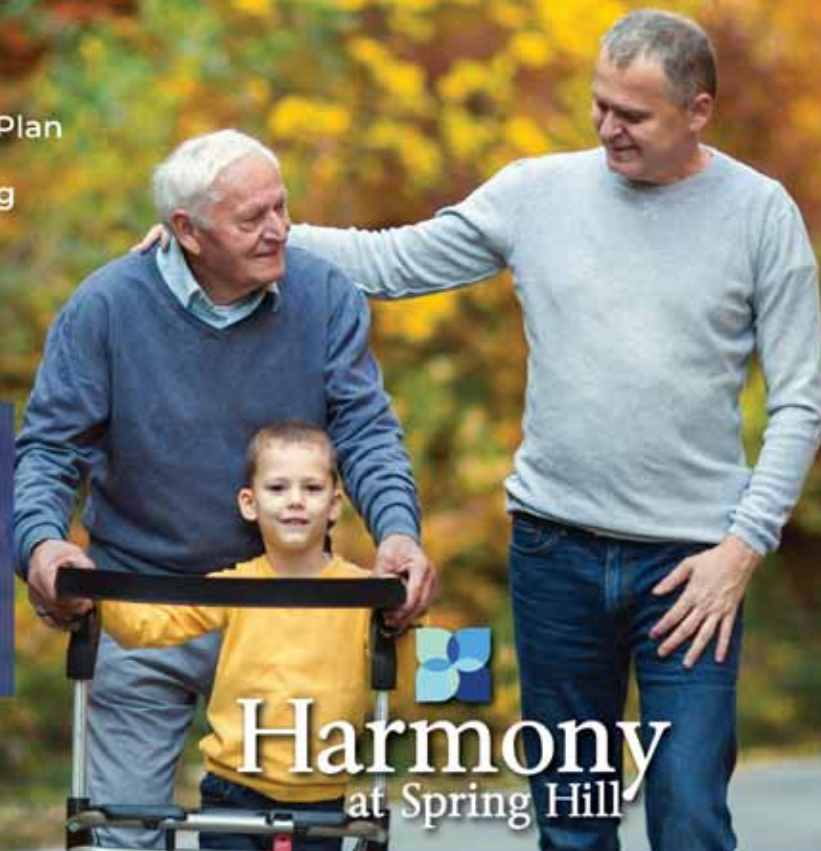
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NEWS

Republican Requiem

BY MICHAEL POPE
THE CONNECTION

It wasn't all that long ago that Northern Virginia had its own breed of Republicanism. People like U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11), U.S. Sen. John Warner and Del. Dave Albo (R-42). Now, after a series of stunning defeats since the election of Donald Trump to the White House, Northern Virginia Republicans are a dying breed, with moderates bowing out or being voted out.

"Donald Trump is the gift that keeps on giving," said Del. Mark Keam (D-35) during a raucous victory rally in Richmond. "Virginians want Democrats to be in charge, and Donald Trump was the factor that led us to where we are."

Two years ago, Democrats picked up 15 seats in the House of Delegates and unseated longtime incumbents like Jim LeMunyon (R-67). Last year, Democrats took control of the U.S. House of Representatives and voted out U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10). This week, Democrats flipped two seats in the state Senate and six seats in the House of Delegates, including Democratic challenger Dan Helmer unseating longtime incumbent Del. Tim Hugo (R-40).

"Dan Helmer won because voters in Fairfax and Prince William want a representative that doesn't stand in the way of progress," said Jessica Post, president of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. "With his long record of standing up for his community, not his party, Dan will make an excellent delegate and will work to keep Virginia moving forward."

After the defeat of Hugo, who served as chairman of the House Republican Caucus, the Fairfax County delegation in the General Assembly will have zero Republicans. Voters in Fairfax also rejected Republican-backed candidates for the School Board.

Alexandria and Arlington haven't had any elected Republicans for years. The last foothold the GOP has in Northern Virginia is the Springfield District, where longtime in-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL POPE

Republicans haven't won a statewide victory since 2009, and now that Democrats have seized control of the House of Delegates and state Senate, Gov. Ralph Northam declared Virginia "officially blue" at a raucous victory party in Richmond Tuesday night.

cumbent Republican Supervisor Pat Herryty was able to eke out a narrow victory against Democratic challenger Linda Sperling.

"We have a clear message that the residents of the Springfield District want someone who shares their common sense conservative values to have a seat at the table," said Herryty. "The Springfield District wants Fairfax County to be a place where everyone can become successful."

DEMOCRATS HAVEN'T controlled the House of Delegates since the late 1990s, a time when Republicans have been able to use their majority to push back efforts on gun control, the minimum wage and the Equal Rights Amendment. Now voters have expelled Republicans from power in a high-turnout election with almost 40 percent of registered voters showing up to cast a ballot compared to 29 percent in 2015. House Democratic Leader Eileen Filler-Corn says that's a mandate for change.

"Without a doubt, the House candidates have offered Virginia a progressive and inclusive future," said House Democratic Leader Eileen Filler-Corn, who is a leading candidate to be the next speaker. "And guess what? You, the voters, said yes."

Democrats take General Assembly, sweep Fairfax School Board; Republican Herryty holds on in Springfield district.



PHOTO @PATHERRYTY VIA TWITTER

Pat Herryty (R-Springfield) with his wife Nancy after voting on Tuesday. Herryty will be the lone remaining Republican in elected office in Fairfax County.

"It's guns. It's the years of trying to make it harder to vote. It's restrictions on women's health care and their privacy."

— Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) on why Republicans lost control of the General Assembly

At the top of that agenda is what Democrats call common-sense gun control. When asked which issues motivated voters this year, Democrats almost universally cited the lack of reaction to mass shootings across Virginia and the country. Democrats are poised to institute universal background checks, ban assault-style weapons and give judges authority to confiscate weapons from people who raise red flags.

"Tomorrow the work begins, and the people want to see results," said Democratic Senate Leader Dick Saslaw, who is expected to lead the caucus next year. "They want to see gun violence curtailed, and Everytown

for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action, you're going to get action."

ONE OF THE REASONS why Northern Virginia no longer has its own brand of Republicanism is its changing demographics. Over the last decade, the region has become more urban and more diverse. That's led to a changing sense of what its voters want from elected officials in the General Assembly, and Democrats say that's why Republicans have been expelled from power.

"When you get out of touch with constituents, that's what happens," said Del. Charniele Herring (D-46), who serves as chairwoman of the House Democratic Caucus. "It's guns. It's the years of trying to make it harder to vote. It's restrictions on women's health care and their privacy."

Democrats may have seized power, but that doesn't mean the fighting is over yet. They'll still have to vote on who leads the party when they gavel into session this year, and that could mean a fight to become Speaker of the House when Democrats take control for the first time in 20 years. Filler-Corn might be the obvious choice, but she already has opposing from Del. Lashrecse Aird (D-63).

Election Results, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019

For more results see
www.elections.virginia.gov/2019-election-results/

The Virginia House of Delegates and Senate both will be controlled by Democrats. In the Senate, Virginia voters elected 21 Democrats and 18 Republicans with one seat still undecided. In the House, 55 Democrats and 45 Republicans. Both House and Senate were controlled by Republicans before with slim margins.

SCHOOL BOND BALLOT QUESTION

This is the text of the public school bond question:

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improve-

ment 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?

YES	204,200	77.38%
NO	59,702	22.62%

CANDIDATES, FAIRFAX COUNTY

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Jeffrey C. McKay (D)	175,028	65.99%
Joseph F. Galdo (R)	89,315	33.68%

Commonwealth's Attorney

Steve T. Descano (D)	166,103	60.86%
Jonathan L. Fahey (I)	106,016	38.84%

Sheriff

Stacey Ann Kincaid (D)	201,112	78.07%
Christopher F. De Carlo (I)	53,458	20.75%

Board of Supervisors, District Representatives

James R. Walkinshaw (D)	18,437	59.63%
S. Jason Remer (R)	10,543	34.10%
Carey Chet Campbell (I)	1,847	5.97%

Dranesville District

John W. Foust (D) incumbent	20,437	64.36%
Ed. R. Martin (R)	11,227	35.36%

Unofficial election results Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019

Hunter Mill District

Walter L. Acorn (D) unopposed	27,326	94.46%
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Lee District

Rodney L. Lusk (D) unopposed	20,993	95.58%
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Mason District

Penelope A. "Penny" Gross (D) incumbent	15,007	63.65%
Gary N. Aiken (R)	8,468	35.92%

Mount Vernon District

Daniel G. "Dan" Storck (D) incumbent, unopposed	23,505	94.27%
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SEE ELECTION RESULTS, PAGE 10

Race Still Matters: An Apology and Notice

I am ashamed to admit that I was one of those race vs. class people. Perhaps this worldview was seeded by a junior paper at Princeton focused on public perceptions of Affirmative Action which became a chapter in *Race vs. Class: The New Affirmative Action Debate* (1996, University Press of America). Perhaps it was nurtured as I traveled the well-trod post-graduate path to a top management consulting firm where I made more in my first job out of college than either of my parents; seeming to confirm the dominant theory that socioeconomic mobility through educational pathways was working, even for me, an African-American first-generation college graduate. And perhaps it was cemented as I came of age in a time when, even on the left, a race-neutral social justice world view was more socially acceptable and therefore, less threatening, to my white colleagues, neighbors, and acquaintances.

Either way, I quickly began ascribing to the notion that socioeconomic mobility through improved educational opportunities could change the life trajectories of many economically vulnerable populations, including those who were racially marginalized. While tragic and all-too frequent national events provided sobering counterbalances to my wholehearted

embrace of socioeconomic mobility as a tool for racial equality, everything else in my life was pushing me to a race-neutral world view on which I doubled-down.

However, this race-neutral worldview is a lie. The fact is that as an African-American Ivy League-educated woman in the 97th income percentile with the privilege of living in one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the suburbs of Northern Virginia and sending my children to the best public schools money can buy:

Persistent gender and race pay gaps mean I am undercompensated as compared to both white men and white women. (#EqualityCan'tWait)

I am still three times more likely to die in childbirth as a white woman, even after controlling for education and income. (#SerenaWilliams)

My beautiful elementary-aged brown boys are more likely to be mistaken for criminals holding real guns during an epic neighborhood nerf battle than their white age mates. (#TamirRice 5th Anniversary)

My strong, independent 4th grade brown girl is more likely to be adultified by society and disproportionately disciplined or even criminalized in school. (#Girlhood Interrupted)

In my idyllic Great Falls neighborhood, if one of our wonderful neighbors calls the police to

conduct a welfare check on us because the front door is open or something else is askew, any member of my family might pay the ultimate price. (#AtatianaJefferson)

And even though our first gift to our children was strong, distinguished (and not coincidentally) race-neutral names to limit the impact of explicit and implicit bias in their life aspirations, IF my boys make it to adulthood, they will have a 50-50 chance of falling from the top income quintile to the bottom income quintile, compared with white kids who grow up wealthy and are five times more likely to stay wealthy than to become poor. (#OpportunityInsights)

All of these experiences rest upon my race, and not my socioeconomic status. In 2019, in America, no factor, not my Ivy League education, advanced degree, career as a foundation executive, or 401k balance can mitigate the burden of living black in a society built for white people.

The fact is: Race STILL Matters.

So, consider this both an apology for ever discounting the role of race in the social justice fight and official notice that I will no longer stand by and watch others discount race either.

RICSHAWN ADKINS ROANE
GREAT FALLS

A Retrospective on this Election Cycle

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

The outcomes of the election on Nov. 5 are not known as I write this column. (The Reston Connection will go to press before the polls close.) I will no doubt have much to say about the results in future writings as this election is going to be pivotal for the Commonwealth's history regardless of who turns out to be the winners. What I was able to observe in the weeks and days leading up to election day was the highest level of people willing to help throughout the state in knocking on doors, making phone calls, writing postcards, and otherwise willing to chip in for their favorite candidates. If the level of activity leading up to election day is any indication, the turnout of voters should have been record breaking. "When we vote, we win" became the mantra of campaigns hoping to hold onto power or to transfer it to a more progressive legislature. As I traveled around the state, I became aware that while I had focused on state legislative contests there were many local elections that were critical to the future of local boards of supervisors and school boards.

What is known before the first vote was cast is that these elections were the most expensive ever seen in off-year elections in Virginia. When the total expenses of both candidates in many legislative elections are added together,



COMMENTARY

it will not be unusual that the total exceeds a million dollars. For some highly contentious races the totals exceed three million dollars. I have never seen the generosity of individuals to contribute to elections in other parts of the state as great as it was this year. There is a growing recognition that while

it is important who your elected official is, there is an equal importance to who holds the majority in the legislative body. You not only work to get your representatives elected, you also need to help the campaigns of those with whom he or she will have to work. Political contributions from out-of-state individuals and organizations poured into the state in record amounts.

Also interesting in this election cycle is the amazing transformation that occurred in some incumbent legislators. It took Virginia more than four years to approve Medicaid expansion in the state. Yet, if you listened to television commercials downstate you would not be able to find anyone who opposed the expansion. To the contrary, there were claims on the part of some incumbents who had voted against the expansion who in the campaign claimed credit for passing it. It is amazing what a refreshment with voters can do to some legislators' point of view and memories.

To analyze state and local election returns I

recommend that you go to the website of the State Board of Elections at www.elections.virginia.gov/resultsreports to see actual voting results. For more information on who the candidates were and how much they spent I suggest a visit to the Virginia Public Access Project, www.vpap.org/elections. In future columns I will provide my take on what the election results mean for the future of the Commonwealth.

A special shout out of recognition and thank you goes to all who worked so hard this election cycle. You are what makes the system work. Thank you!

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, civility, libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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By email:
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NEWS



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

School board candidate Laura Jane Cohen talks to voters out in front of the newly renovated West Springfield High School.

Springfield Polls are Active on Election Day

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Voters at West Springfield High School and Newington bus lot hit the polls early on election day, casting ballots and talking with neighbors before heading off to the office.

Signs and home baked snacks dominated the landscape at West Springfield.



VIEWPOINTS

What are the issues that are important to you this election?



"Reduce college expenses, safe bus stop areas."
- Mara Hennessy, Springfield, vocational counselor



"Gay rights, mental health awareness, veterans' benefits"
- Brian White, Burke



"Student loan debt, livable wage, healthcare"
- Jessica McMahon, 27, Springfield



"Making sure we are not arming our teachers, increasing mental health support for our students and raising teachers and staff pay"
- Laura Jane Cohen, school board candidate

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WELLBEING

Diffusing Holiday Drama

Sanity-saving strategies to get us through the not-so-silent holiday nights.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Later this month, Thanksgiving will usher in the holiday season, family gatherings and expectations of celebrations that are reminiscent of Currier and Ives-type scenes. For those who deal with difficult family members be they cousins, siblings, in-laws or outlaws, the most wonderful time of year can be met with dread. Having a few sanity-saving strategies can help get us through the not-so-silent holiday nights.

"Often, those closest to us can unfortunately spark the most amount of stress" said Nathan Leslie, Professor of Creative Writing at Northern Virginia Community College and author of the book "Hurry Up and Relax."

Focusing on one's own behaviors and responses rather than those we find difficult can offer a sense of empowerment "That's because in the end you cannot control how anyone else acts during this time, or ever," said Lorente. "The only thing that you really can control is how you react and respond to different people and situations. Being aware of your behavior and changing your mindset might be the best — and only way to survive the holiday drama this season."

Whether it's a feeling of obligation or hope for holiday cheer, before you head over the river and through the woods, know the reason for your trip. "First know why you are choosing to be around family members who might be difficult," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "This helps you to take ownership and control of the situation. I think that a lot of the negative feelings stem from feeling out of control, obligated, and frustrated."

Setting boundaries and having an exit strategy can be sanity-saving. "[For example,] 'when we start talking about topics such as my parenting style, or my politics, or my hair, I will leave the room,'" said Lorente. "Not with anger but with a sense that I am control of me not of my family member."

A family ally can offer support or an exit strategy if family gatherings turn sour. "You can even develop a code word or phrase you can say to prompt your ally to intervene, politely interrupt, or help you get out of the situation promptly," said Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Montgomery College. "A family ally is also a good person to have for support."

For those who know that difficult family situations are unavoidable, set time limits. "Plan ahead to organize your time spent in this situation, and avoid staying at family members' homes if your relationship is challenging," said Bagshaw. "Also, structure your time, make sure there's not a lot of downtime that can lead to awkward conversations."

Choosing to give attention to the positive aspects of one's familial relationships can help diffuse tension, suggests Lorente. "Focus on gratitude, fun, and the good things that this time may bring," she said. "You and your Mom may not agree on certain adult issues but look at what a great grandmother she is to your children."



COURTESY OF NATHAN LESLIE

Nathan Leslie, author of the book, "Hurry Up and Relax," says journaling can help relieve stress during the holidays.

"First know why you are choosing to be around family members who might be difficult. This helps you to take ownership and control of the situation."

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D Northern Virginia Community College

"Focus on gratitude, fun, and the good things that this time may bring."

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D Northern Virginia Community College

Putting pen to paper can help relieve stress. "Journaling is an excellent way to relieve stress and make sense out of chaos," said Leslie. "Writing...can be useful in giving mental order to the disorientation that the holidays might bring."

Visualize family events going well. Positive thoughts lead to positive feelings, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason

University. "Be curious instead of critical," he said. "Wonder how others are thinking and feeling, and why," said Short. "Give others the benefit of the doubt."

"Wait before speaking if you have negative thoughts," continued Short. "Take a deep breath, visualize a favorite place, or walk away if you might regret what you say in the moment."

Redistricting Forum Nov. 17

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area and OneVirginia2021 will hold a discussion on how to pass redistricting in Virginia in 2020. The event will take place on Nov. 17, 2019, 1-4 p.m., at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax.

Speakers include the following Virginia state legislators:

Sen. George Barker, Sen. Dave Marsden, Del. Karrie Delaney, Del. Mark Keam, Del. Kaye Kory, Del. Mark Sickles, Del. Mark Levine; Del. Ken Plum, Del. Ibraheem Samirah, Del. Marcus Simon and Del. Rip Sullivan, Jr.

Other participants include:

Andre Parvenu, California Citizens Redistricting Commission;

Brian Cannon, OneVirginia2021, Deb Wake, League of Women Voters of Virginia, and Wendy Fox-Grage, League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

This event is free and open to the public. Register at: lwv2019.eventbrite.com

Questions can be directed to: PR@lwv-fairfax.org.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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

NOV. 6 TO JAN. 5

Give the Gift of Original Art. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 2905 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. Open Wednesday

thru Sunday 11 - 7 p.m. Reception celebrating small businesses, Nov. 30, 5 to 8 p.m. You can find extraordinary fine art that makes great gifts this holiday season — the work of highly-acclaimed Torpedo Factory Artists — at their satellite space in Merrifield. Beautiful paintings, fine-art photographs, one-of-a-kind jewelry, scarves, ceramics and much more will be offered. Plus you can get an early start on your holiday shopping. Artists Sonne Hernandez and Greg Knott are in residence during this show.

THURSDAY/NOV. 7

Autonomous Technology Summit. At INOVA Center for Personalized Health in Fairfax. The Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC) in partnership with the Virginia Unmanned Systems Center at CIT will hold its Autonomous Technology Summit of Virginia. The Summit will bring together leading experts across the commercial, defense, regulatory, and academic sectors as they discuss the opportunities, challenges, and impacts of autonomous technology across the domains of sea, air, land, and space. Along with keynote and panel discussions, the event will

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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

ONGOING

Shir HaLev, the Community Jewish Chorale of Northern Virginia. Rehearsals are held select Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax. The Chorale is a friendly, welcoming, adult volunteer choir. Membership in the group is open to all, members of Congregation Olam Tikvah and other Northern Virginians. Their repertoire consists mainly of Jewish liturgical music and also some contemporary Jewish music and some secular showtunes, too. Visit carolboydleon.com/shir_halev for more.

Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, 9 a.m.-noon, through Nov. 17, in the VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorion.

Springfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Vendors include Cascade Beverage, Celestial/Fossil Farms, Chilanga Tortilla, Conecopia, Greenwich Farms, Iganacio's Produce, Kingdom Gourmet, Lola's Kusina, Lund's Produce, Smiths Mecklenburg, Taste Old Country, Three Puppies, Tyson Farm, and Windmill Meadows. Visit www.community-foodworks.org or call 202-697-7768.

Sweet but Psycho. Through Nov. 30, at Olly Olly, 10417 Main St., 2nd Floor, Fairfax. Olly Olly presents Sweet but Psycho: an avant-garde fairytale. Strangeland is a performance duo, made up of Bunni (Andiland) and Goatface (Strange Lens), that explores the superficial construct of reality. Call 703-789-6144 or visit ollyollyart.com for more.

Braddock Wrestling Club. Online registration through Dec. 1. The Braddock Wrestling Club is holding registration for the 2019-2020 season. The club supports wrestling for age groups 5 through 14 years old, boys and girls. All practices are held at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Cost is \$155 per wrestler. Link to registration can be found at braddockwrestlingclub.shutterstock.com/. Or contact William Flynn at bflynniv@verizon.net or call 571-230-0713.

Burke Farmers Market. Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. A great selection of fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, and dairy. All vendors make their own food or grow it locally within 125 miles. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke for more.

Registration Open: Fall Art Classes. Burke Centre Conservancy is sponsoring Fall Art Classes starting Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Jan. 7 and Saturday classes starting Jan. 11 - March in Drawing and Watercolor Painting for 5-8-year old, 8 years and up and Adults/Teens held at the Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. New Class – Art Workshop for Adults Tuesday Afternoons - Nov. 12 - Dec. 17.

SATURDAY/NOV. 9

Paddle through a Tunnel of Color. 8 to 10 a.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. "Fall Foliage Kayak Expedition" at Lake Accotink Park. This expedition for kayakers age 13 to adult goes to the northern part of the lake to see glorious natural tunnels of orange, yellow and red leaves. Previous kayak experience is necessary. Cost is \$31 per person. Call 703-569-3464 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink.

Revolutionary War Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, Lorton. The Revolutionary War touched everyone in the American colonies, not just soldiers. Throughout the day, explore life at home, and join Colonel Mason and his fellow Virginians as they support the war effort. This family-oriented program has activities for all ages throughout the day. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.

Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join in the monthly Second Saturday Art Walk, featuring opening receptions in each of the artist buildings, new exhibits in W-16, and more. Featured artists for November: W5: Laura Bruce; W6: Patricia McMahon Rice; W7: Kathryn Lagassey; W8: Group show; W9: Marsha Egan and W10: Mikhail Bolkhovitinov.

Campfire Saturdays-Stargazing. 7-9 p.m. At



Members of Temple B'nai Shalom congregation begin the 26th annual Burke/Fairfax CROP Hunger Walk last November 2018 at Fairfax Presbyterian Church. Hundreds of local area residents participated and raised over \$28,000 in support of hunger and disaster relief.

Hunger Walk on Sunday, Nov. 17

CROP Hunger Walk. Sunday/Nov. 17, 1:15-4:30 p.m. At Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Area residents from different faiths, cultures, and ages, walking together (5K or shorter Golden Mile) to support local/global efforts to fight world hunger and help disaster victims. Registration required. Free. Visit the website: www.burkecropwalk.org

Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Enjoy a stroll along the lakeshore and learn about the constellations, their stories and other night-sky features. An astronomical naturalist will identify the stars for you and have some telescopes for you to use. The program concludes with a campfire. S'mores ingredients are provided; hot dogs are welcome. The program runs from 7 to 9 p.m., and the cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

Taj Express: The Bollywood Music Revue. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts. Cost is \$48, \$41, \$29. This international sensation explodes onstage with the look and feel of the Indian Bollywood movies that have been entertaining people around the globe for generations. Taj Express follows the story of one man's passion and another's genius, and is packed with action, romance, comedy, and glamour. Spectacular dance numbers are performed to India's pop hits, including the songs of Oscar-winning composer A. R. Rahman, along with folk-music classics. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>.

NOV. 9-10

Fall Foliage Tour Boat Ride. 4-5 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Enjoy the fall colors a new way this autumn. This tour boat ride captures the beauty of fall from a pontoon boat's unique perspective. The tour includes a one-hour ride and a hot beverage. It's designed for participants age 5 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

SUNDAY/NOV. 10

TTRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia TTRAK members will hold an N gauge Model Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Cost is \$4 for adults 16 and over; \$2 for children 5-15; free for Museum members and children under 5. Visit www.fairfax-station.org www.facebook.com/FFXSRR phone 703-425-9225.

Historic Home Tour. 2-4 p.m. At Sunrise at Silas Burke, 9619 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Sunrise at Silas Burke and the Burke Historical Society are hosting an open house of the historic house, Woodbury. At 2 p.m. Jon Vrana will present on the house's history followed by tours at 3 p.m. Free. Visit the website: www.burkehistoricalsociety.org

The Four Seasons. 2 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall, Fairfax. Featuring the Zurich Chamber Orchestra; Daniel Hope, Violin; Vivaldi: The Four Seasons. Cost is \$48, \$41, \$29. Rediscover the beauty of The Four Seasons, both in its original form and also in a completely reimagined one. In this groundbreaking program, the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, led by

music director and charismatic violin virtuoso Daniel Hope, pairs Vivaldi's iconic masterpiece The Four Seasons with neo-classical composer Max Richter's piece Recomposed. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu>

Rose Bush Auction and Rooting Workshop. 2-4:30 p.m. At Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. From 2-3:15 p.m. — Bid at live auction and take home beautiful rose bushes. Inspect all bushes 1/2 hour beforehand. From 3:30-4:30 p.m. — Learn to grow roses from cuttings. Instructor led. All materials provided. Bring your pruners. Cost is free to Arlington Rose Foundation members, \$15 at the door for non-members, which includes the benefits of one year membership. Visit the website: arlingtonrose.org.

Ensemble da Camera of Washington. 3 p.m. At Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The acclaimed Ensemble da Camera of Washington (EDCW), AYPO's ensemble-in-residence, will perform works by Mozart and Brahms with guest artists Jennifer Kim, violin; Tsuna Sakamoto, viola; and David Hardy, cello. Join us for an evening of music presented by AYPO and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Tickets are \$10.

TUESDAY NOV. 12

Fall/Winter Art Workshop for Teens/Adults. 1:30-3:30 p.m. At Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin presents drawing, watercolor, Chinese Brush and portfolio development. Visit www.czartlessons.com for more. Call 703-250-6930.

"Naïla and the Uprising." 4:30 p.m. At The Johnson Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Visiting Filmmakers Series at Mason presents: "Naïla and the Uprising," a free screening and Q&A with Julia Bacha. The film chronicles the remarkable journey of Naïla Ayesh and a fierce community of women at the frontlines, whose stories weave through the most vibrant, nonviolent mobilization in Palestinian history – the First Intifada in the late 1980s. Using evocative animation, interviews, and exclusive archival footage, this film brings out of anonymity the courageous women activists who have remained on the margins of history — until now. For more information, see VFS.GMU.EDU or contact Cynthia Fuchs at cfuchs@gmu.edu.

Fall/Winter Art Lessons for Youth Classes. 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. At Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin presents drawing and watercolor. (8 yrs & up). Visit www.czartlessons.com for more. Call 703-250-6930.

Fall Drawing Plus Color Class. 6:15-7 p.m. At Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin presents drawing and watercolor. For ages 5-8 years. Visit www.czartlessons.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13

Women's Connection Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Enjoy entertainment and inspiration. Marveta Cummings to speak on "Life Can Be Wonderful...If Only." A Navy Captain tells stories of WWII Pacific Campaign. Share your WWII family memories. Men welcome. Cost is \$22. Email: springwmconn@yahoo.com or call 703-922-6438.

THURSDAY/NOV. 14

Holiday Open House. 2-6 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, Lorton. Celebrate the season at Gunston Hall during this merchandise unveiling and receive special discounts and offers, complimentary gift wrapping, and snack on light refreshments as you shop locally. This event is free and open to the public. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

SymposiYUM! 2:30-6:30 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, Lorton. Join the inaugural SymposiYUM! program which features lectures, discussions, and a special food-based experience. The launch of this innovative program combines the traditional concept of a symposium with the dynamic, food-focused programming offered at Gunston Hall, such as Cocktails by Candlelight and its Hearth Cooking Workshops. Speakers will include Dr. Kelley Deetz and Ms. Michelle Moon. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.

Lakeside Campfire Fridays. 6-7:30 p.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Come to Lake Accotink to enjoy a campfire, s'mores and more. A different topic and a different area of the park will be explored at each event. Cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-569-3464 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink.

SATURDAY, NOV. 16

2019 Gala Phantom of the Workhouse. 6-11 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring a reception, raffle, silent auction, dining, dancing, dinner, and live auction. The band Fringe Benefits is performing. A mysterious and impressive evening awaits. Black tie optional. Masquerade encouraged. Visit the website: <https://workhousearts.networkforgood.com/events/14148-2019-workhouse-arts-center-ga>

ilyAIMY & Ayreheart. 7 p.m. At Epicure, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Two award-winning singer/songwriters, a unique percussive acoustic guitarist, Grammy-nominated lute player Ronn McFarlane, the world-traveled Irish bones player of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, violin, percussion, electric cello... all on one stage playing original tunes, Renaissance-era compositions and some Led Zeppelin to boot. Cost is \$10 suggested. Visit www.ilyaimy.com.

Nostalgic Nights. 8 p.m. At GMU Harris Theatre, 4471 Aquia Creek Lane, Fairfax. Be swept away by the romantic charm of the classical guitar as the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra takes you on a journey to Spain with Joaquin Rodrigo's masterpiece. Featuring Berta Rojas on guitar; and Christopher Zimmerman, conductor. The composer, blind since the age of 3, drew his inspiration from "the fragrance of magnolias, the singing of birds, and the gushing of fountains" in the palace gardens of Aranjuez. This guitar concerto by Rodrigo was written in 1939 and is his best-known work, with its success establishing his reputation as one of the most significant Spanish composers of the 20th century. Hear the stories behind the music with music director Zimmerman and special guests before the concert at 7 p.m. Call the box office at 703-993-2787. Visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

NOV. 16-17

Holiday Express Boutique Sale. Saturday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Handcrafted, one-of-a-kind, seasonal decorator and gift items. Sweet Shop, Silent Auction, Raffle, Chili lunch and cafe on Saturday only (10-4 p.m.). No vendors. Cash or check only. Call Lou: 703-426-8092.

"Il Postino" (The Postman). Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. At George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virginia Opera, The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia, will stage composer/librettist Daniel Catán's three-act opera Il Postino (The Postman), the second opera in the company's 2019-2020, 45th anniversary season. The production marks the Virginia Opera debut of stage director Crystal Manich. Tickets are \$45-\$115. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

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Announcements

Announcements

NOTICE OF OLD DOMINION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND ITS MEMBER DISTRIBUTION COOPERATIVES TO SEEK WAIVER OF CERTAIN PURPA OBLIGATIONS FROM THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Take notice that on or after December 2, 2019, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) intends to file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) a Petition requesting waiver of certain obligations in FERC's rules implementing Section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA), on behalf of itself and the following ODEC member distribution cooperatives which are regulated by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (VSCC): A&N Electric Cooperative, BARC Electric Cooperative, Community Electric Cooperative, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, Prince George Electric Cooperative, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, and Southside Electric Cooperative (collectively, the "Members").

The Petition will request waiver of FERC's regulations to allow ODEC and the Members to jointly implement their respective obligations under Section 210 of PURPA and under Part 292 of the FERC's regulations, 18 C.F.R. Part 292, as set forth in the PURPA Implementation Plan between ODEC and its member distribution cooperatives. PURPA Section 210 was enacted to encourage production of electric energy by qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities (QFs). Part 292 of FERC's Regulations sets forth the requirements regarding arrangements between electric utilities and QFs. Part 292 requires electric utilities to purchase and sell energy and capacity from and to QFs. The PURPA Implementation Plan provides that (1) any QF may interconnect with the electric distribution systems of ODEC's Members or to ODEC's transmission system to the extent such QF is entitled to interconnection under Part 292 of the Commission's Regulations; (2) ODEC will purchase capacity and energy from QFs with a net capacity in excess of 100 kW and up to 20 MW as made available by such QFs, at ODEC's avoided cost; (3) each of the Members will sell supplementary, back-up and maintenance power to QFs on a firm or interruptible basis, upon request, at rates that are non-discriminatory, just and reasonable, and in the public interest; and (4) no QF will be subject to duplicative charges for interconnection or wheeling as a result of selling to ODEC and buying from a Member. By Order issued on August 9, 2019, in its Case No. PUR-2019-0047, the VSCC granted ODEC's motion for authorization to state that the VSCC endorses the Petition with respect to the Members.

Copies of the PURPA Implementation Plan will be sent to interested parties upon request. FERC will publish notice of the Petition in the Federal Register following receipt of the filing. That notice will specify that any person desiring to be heard in this matter can make the appropriate filing with the FERC.

Inquiries or comments concerning this matter should be addressed to:
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative • 4201 Dominion Boulevard •
Glen Allen, VA 23060 • (804) 968-4021 • Attn: General Counsel

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

ELECTION RESULTS

FROM PAGE 3

Providence District

Dalia A. Palchik (D) 18,885 69.34%
Eric Anthony Jones (R) 8,184 30.05%

Springfield District

Patrick S. "Pat" Herrity (R) incumbent 18,360 50.72%
Linda D. Sperling (D) 17,765 49.07%

Sully District

Kathy L. Smith (D) incumbent 20,280 62.70%
Srilekha R. Palle (R) 11,979 37.04%

SCHOOL BOARD

School Board At-Large (three)

Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats) 160,138 21.99%
Abrar E. Omeish (endorsed by Democrats) 145,143 19.93%
Rachna Sizemore Heizer (endorsed by Democrats) 139,278 19.12%
Cheryl A. Buford (endorsed by Republicans) 101,831 13.98%
Priscilla M. DeStefano (endorsed by Republicans) 100,166 13.75%
Vinson Palathingal (endorsed by Republicans) 79,579 10.93%

Braddock District, School Board

Megan O. McLaughlin, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats) 20,775 67.40%
Zia Tompkins (endorsed by Republicans) 9,938 32.24%

Dranesville District, School Board

Elaine V. Tholen (endorsed by Democrats) 17,988 57.50%
Anastasia S. Karloutsos (endorsed by Republicans) 11,523 36.84%
Ardavan Mobasherli 1,715 5.48%

Hunter Mill District, School Board

Melanie K. Meren (endorsed by Democrats) 22,893 69.25%
Laura Ramirez Drain (endorsed by Republicans) 10,054 30.41%

Lee District, School Board

Tamara J. Derenak Kaufax, incumbent, (endorsed by Democrats) 20,736 95.70%

Mason District, School Board

Ricardy J. Anderson (endorsed by Democrats) 16,077 76.89%
Tom L. Pafford 4,431 21.19%

Mount Vernon District, School Board

Karen L. Corbett Sanders, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats) 17,611 62.31%
Steven D. Mosley (endorsed by Republicans) 8,844 31.29%
Pamela C. Ononiwu 1,716 6.07%

Providence District, School Board

Karl V. Frisch (endorsed by Democrats) 16,644 61.72%
Andrea L. "Andi" Bayer (endorsed by Republicans) 10,167 37.70%

Springfield District, School Board

Laura Jane H. Cohen (endorsed by Democrats) 17,745 50.46%
Elizabeth L. Schultz, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans) 14,809 42.12%
R. Kyle McDaniel 2,529 7.19%

Sully District, School Board

Stella G. Pekarsky (endorsed by Democrats) 18,585 58.43%
Tom A. Wilson, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans) 13,144 41.33%

Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District Vote for Three

Monica A. Billger (endorsed by Democrats) 153,051 21.87%
Gerald Owen "Jerry" Peters Jr., incumbent, (endorsed by Democrats) 148,091 21.16%

Chris E. Koerner (endorsed by Democrats) 139,641 19.95%
C. Jane Dudik (endorsed by Republicans) 80,604 11.52%
Edward F. McGovern (endorsed by Republicans) 80,281 11.47%
Christopher A. Bowen (endorsed by Republicans) 78,558 11.23%
Jonah E. "Jet" Thomas 17,888 2.56%

CANDIDATES, GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House of Delegates

District 34
Kathleen J. Murphy (D), incumbent 15,166 57.69%
Gary G. Pan (R) 11,100 42.22%

District 35
Mark L. Keam (D), incumbent, unopposed 15,330 92.63%

District 36
Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum, incumbent, unopposed 17,659 92.78%

District 37
David L. Bulova (D), incumbent, unopposed 13,470 91.98%

District 38
L. Kaye Kory (D), incumbent, unopposed 12,619 93.22%

District 39
Vivian E. Watts (D), incumbent 14,361 67.91%
Nick O. Bell (R) 6,740 31.87%

District 40
Dan I. Helmer (D) 14,015 53.46%
Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), incumbent 12,172 46.43%

District 41
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent 15,526 71.14%
John M. Wolfe (I) 4,213 19.30%
Rachel D. Mace (L) 1,713 7.85%

District 42
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent 14,532 59.53%
Steve P. Adragna (R) 9,857 40.38%

District 43
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent 14,488 77.64%
G. Gail Parker (I) 3,876 20.77%

District 44
Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent 12,271 70.52%
Richard T. Hayden (R) 5,105 29.34%

District 45
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed 19,208 91.41%

District 46
Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent, unopposed 12,270 92.03%

District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent, unopposed 20,993 96.16%

District 48
Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan (D), incumbent, unopposed 18,680 94.27%

District 49
Alfonso H. Lopez (D), incumbent 13,393 83.43%
Terry W. Modglin (I) 2,522 15.71%

District 53
Marcus B. Simon (D), incumbent, unopposed 15,554 93.83%

District 67
Karrie K. Delaney (D), incumbent, unopposed 15,415 89.48%

District 86
Ibraheem S. Samirah (D), incumbent, unopposed 13,588 89.45%

VIRGINIA STATE SENATE

District 30
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent, unopposed 40,942 91.67%

District 31
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent, unopposed 44,347 91.82%

District 32
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent 44,424 73.17%
Arthur G. Purves (R) 16,171 26.64%

District 33
Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent 32,258 64.83%
Suzanne D. Fox (R) 17,446 35.06%

District 34
J. C. "Chap" Petersen (D), incumbent, unopposed 39,971 91.15%

District 35
Richard L. "Dick" Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed 33,563 92.75%

District 36
Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent, unopposed 35,131 95.82%

District 37
Dave W. Marsden (D), incumbent, unopposed 37,720 90.49%

District 39
George L. Barker (D), incumbent 37,989 65.92%
S. W. "Dutch" Hillenburg (R) 19,571 33.96%

CLERK OF COURT (Alexandria City)
J. Greg Parks (D), unopposed 26,466 93.98%

Commonwealth's Attorney (ARLINGTON COUNTY-FALLS CHURCH CITY)
Parisa Dehghani-Tafti (D) unopposed 45,334 90.01%

Sheriff (ARLINGTON COUNTY)
Elizabeth F. "Beth" Arthur 49,929 97.29%

Commissioner of Revenue (ARLINGTON COUNTY)
Ingrid H. Morroy 49,406 97.50%

Treasurer (ARLINGTON COUNTY)
Carla F. de la Pava 49,741 97.34%

Member County Board (ARLINGTON COUNTY) vote for 2

Kate A. "Katie" Cristol 41,097 40.51%
Christian E. Dorsey 38,087 37.55%
Audrey R. Clement 13,326 13.14%
Arron O'Dell 7,189 7.09%

Member School Board (ARLINGTON COUNTY)
Reid S. Goldstein 47,880 95.85%

Unofficial Election Results Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019

For more results see www.elections.virginia.gov/2019-election-results/

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 7

provide a unique platform to showcase Virginia's leadership in autonomous systems and highlight best practices, new business models, and technology transfers that have a national impact.

SUNDAY/NOV. 10

American Legion Dinner. 7 p.m. At Springfield VA American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. Join the Department of Virginia Commander for a Veteran's Day Eve Dinner. This will be the Commander's official Veterans Day visit and official visit on behalf of the Department of Virginia to Arlington National Cemetery. All members of the 17th District American Legion family are invited to attend the dinner honoring the Department Commander. Cost is \$25.

TUESDAY/NOV. 12

Car Seat Safety Check. 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule. In preparation for appointment, install the seat using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13

Chili Cookoff. 5-7 p.m. At American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. The Fairfax-Lee Chapter's First Annual Chili Cookoff sponsored by the American Legion Post 176 Springfield VA. Cost is \$20 entry fee for cooks; attendee registration is free (donations accepted for tasting and voting).

NOV. 13 AND NOV. 15

Business Tax Workshops. 5:30-7 p.m. At Professional Tax Accountants, 7009 Backlick Court, Springfield. Small Business Owners Tax Strategies Workshop covering business-entity tax structure, payroll structures, contractor questions, deductibles and more, Professional Tax Accountants offering two free workshops with live Q&A. R.S.V.P. required by Nov. 11. Visit the website: <https://pro-tax-usa.com/>

NOV. 15 DEADLINE

Seeking Area Talent. "From the Top," the hit NPR radio program showcasing America's best young classical musicians, is seeking local talent for its live show recording on Saturday, February 29 at 8 p.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts. Guest hosts Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe will emcee the program and perform alongside the young artists for the Center for the Arts performance. The weekly hour-long radio program is heard Sundays on WETA 90.9 FM at 6 p.m. as well as more than 200 other stations nationwide. To be considered for "From the Top" at the Center for the Arts in Fairfax, eligible young classical musicians must submit recordings and complete an application by Nov. 15, 2019. Application and scholarship information is available online at www.fromthetop.org/apply.

TUESDAY/NOV. 19

Car Seat Safety Check. 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule. In preparation for appointment, install the seat using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

Fairfax Lions Club Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, upper level. 939 Oak St., Fairfax. Visit a Lions Club dinner meeting. Enjoy a buffet dinner, speaker, and club announcements. Guests are cordially invited – meet members and learn about Lions community service. Free. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org or call 703-879-5795.

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-Thomas Fuller

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Please Relief Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or let me go. So sang Engelbert Humperdink way back in 1967 about having lost that loving feeling. His lost loving feeling was not about his mortgage. The lyrics: "I have found a new love dear" imply if not clearly state that there's a woman involved. My lost loving feeling is about my mortgage. And contrary to Engelbert, I can't leave it, and believe me, I've tried, though I've never sung about it, only droned on about it in print. To invoke the legendary Ricky Ricardo, aka Desi Arnaz, from "I Love Lucy," originally broadcast in the mid- to late-50s: Let me 'splain.

It's been over 15 years since my last successful refinance. Twice in the intervening years I've tried to refinance. In each case, I've been denied even though I've had upwards of 50 percent equity and an 800 or so credit rating.

Between multiple problems with the house (lead paint on the exterior, broken windows, etc.) and less than ideal income documentation, debt to income ratio, yada, yada, yada, we've regularly been kicked to the curb, which we also don't have, so I gave up; and have proceeded over the years to fix some of the problems mentioned which unfortunately has not led to an acceptable resolution.

Time has passed, and after years of television advertisements by Henry Winkler, Fred Thompson and most recently, Thomas Magnum himself: Tom Selleck, promoting reverse mortgages for those nearing retirement, I buckled under the pressure of these years of paid celebrity endorsements and made a few inquiries. It turns out that given my age — and circumstances semi-unique to us (no kids, lots of equity, need the money), we're perfect candidates. So we applied to company number one (denied) which led to company number two: denied. The second time the denial was not about income documentation and so forth as it was with the first "reverse-mortgager." No. It wasn't even about the house. This time it was about an out-building on our property, specifically the foundation of a "shed"/stable standing derelict in its duties and of no use to anyone. Not however of 'no use' to the appraiser, apparently, who mentioned its condition in his report to the mortgage underwriter who now has because of those findings, slam-dunked us (put our application on hold) pending the shed's disposition.

To summarize and recall another legendary figure from the 50s: author Joseph Heller, I'm in a bit of a "Catch-22." I can't refinance the house and get access to its equity because I can't meet the financial qualifications. And I can't reverse-mortgage the house — to gain access to the equity I need to live on, because the out-building on my property ("Belly Acres" as I call it) is a shell of its former self, so to speak, and needs upwards of \$100,000 of repairs (I've gotten an estimate), money that if I had/could even get to, I'd need to live on, not spend on a building I'll never use/don't need. And neither can I sell the house (nor do we want to quite frankly) because the "shed" would be part of any deal, which means its repair would still be required. And one more thing, because the house is registered with the Federal Government as "Historic," we can't demolish this out-building either. In effect, we are stuck between a rock — as in those missing and cracked in the 100 year-old shed's foundation — and a hard place: the underwriter's intransigence and the Historic Preservation's rules. Let's call it a Catch-22 "A."

At this point, I don't really know which way to turn. I'm not exactly damned if I do, I'm more damned because I can't. I don't think I'm asking for any kind of special dispensation. I'm not involving the Pope. I just want, to quote singer/songwriter Nick Lowe from his 1974 song, ("What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love and Understanding," some 'peace, love and understanding.' I'm not looking to make any trouble. In fact, I'm looking for the opposite: serenity, now and forever, with or without Seinfeld reruns. And I can afford it if the powers that be, won't be less omnipotent and help a fella out. I swear I won't bother them if they won't bother me. Make the approval a Festivus-type occasion except it won't be for the rest of us, it will be just for me and my wife. I promise I won't tell a soul.

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

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