

# Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

WELLBEING  
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## Republican Requiem

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Wesley Dowling sported the Uncle Sam outfit at the Newington poll where voters in the Belvoir district cast their ballots. In recent years, this polling place was moved from the Kingstowne Library to this location, where many of the area school buses are parked.



## Election Results

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## All Smiles at Fairfax Dems Victory Party

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Nostalgic Nights' at Mason Stage

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra concert with classical guitarist Berta Rojas.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Join the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) for a special evening titled "Nostalgic Nights" with special guest Berta Rojas, one of today's foremost classical guitarists. "This program has a little bit of everything in terms of musical styles and expression (not to mention nationalities)," said Christopher Zimmerman, FSO Conductor and Music Director.

Audiences can expect "beautiful, varied music in a more intimate setting, and a marvelous, appealing soloist on an instrument not usually associated with a symphony orchestra," added Zimmerman. That instrument is the acoustic guitar played by Berta Rojas.

Rojas will be performing Joaquin Rodrigo's popular masterpiece "Concierto de Aranjuez." It was written for acoustic guitar and orchestra by Rodrigo who has been blind for many years.

"Diversity and connection!" is the way Zimmerman described the concert. It has "lots of completely different European



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Berta Rojas, special guest guitarist with Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in "Nostalgic Nights" concert at the Harris Theatre, George Mason University.**

styles, yet a thread." Beyond Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez," the concert includes Mozart's "Symphony No. 35" (Haffner), Ravel's "Pavane for a Dead Princess," Honegger's "Summer Pastoral," and "Symphony No. 1" (Classical) by Prokofiev.

The varied musical selections of the FSO concert will explore diverse temperaments

from the dreamy to the intense.

There is "the emotional topic that inspired the searing tune in the central movement of Rodrigo's Guitar concerto, which was written on the death of his own young daughter," noted Zimmerman.

The Mozart selection "is a classical gem like so many of his works and the Prokofiev

## Where and When

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra presents "Nostalgic Nights" with special guest Berta Rojas at Harris Theatre, George Mason University (Fairfax Campus), 4475 Aquia Creek Ln, Fairfax. Concert on Sat, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$30, \$45, and \$55. Student tickets \$15. For more information and to purchase tickets visit [www.FairfaxSymphony.org](http://www.FairfaxSymphony.org) or call 703-993-2787. Note: Hear the stories behind the music with music director Christopher Zimmerman and special guests before the concert at 7 p.m. The Harris Theatre is a short walk away from the Center for the Arts Concert Hall.

symphony was inspired by, and at times deliberately parodies, his music. Hence its name: "Classical Symphony," added Zimmerman. The works by Honegger and Ravel "are short pieces, conjuring mood and atmosphere."

Guitarist Rojas (from Paraguay) has been nominated three times for a Latin GRAMMY. She has been named a Fellow of the Americas by The Kennedy Center for her artistic excellence.

"Music is nothing if not the bridge that brings people together and opens a path to honest communication between them," said Rojas. "Playing the guitar, for me, is a way of communication."

"There is always a message to take to the stage, to bring forward to others, regardless of what it is each of us has chosen to be and do in this world," added Rojas.

This FSO concert will be performed at the Harris Theatre, George Mason University. "The Harris Theatre is a good venue for a more intimate program and particularly for the guitar as a solo instrument," noted Zimmerman.

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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."

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**  
**Braddock District**  
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%

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



PHOTO @PATHERITY 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/](http://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-

## Unofficial election results Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019

**Hunter Mill District**  
Walter L. Acorn (D) unopposed 27,326 94.46%

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

**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%

SEE ELECTION RESULTS, PAGE 14



# Hope and Hospitality in a Positive Environment

Ribbon-cutting for the new Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**“W**e’re especially pleased to be here today for the ribbon-cutting for Bailey’s Shelter,” said Michael L. O’Reilly, Chairman of the governing board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. “Many of us were here on April 5, 2018, when we broke ground. It’s amazing we are back here today. ... This shelter is spectacular,” said O’Reilly.

Designed by LeMay Erickson Willcox Architects and built by the Forrester Construction team, the facility located at 5914 Seminary Road in Falls Church was completed on time and on budget.

Outreach Representative for U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D- 11) Alex Robbins recalled when Connolly was on the Governing Board to Prevent and End Homelessness; they reduced homelessness by 47 percent during that time. “Something we can be very proud of. Obviously, we know the work still remains ... (But) the creation of a facility like this one shows we live in a community that really cares,” said Robbins.

Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, described what set the 23,000 square foot structure with its energy-efficient equipment, lighting and appliances, and a green roof apart. “This brand new building is the first in its generation of modern shelter facilities in our county. ... The building is designed with flexibility where multiple needs can be efficiently met in one location.” According to the project information sheet, the facility has 52 emergency shelter beds for single adults, including four medical respite beds, 18 permanent supportive housing units or micro-efficiencies, a laundry room, additional space for Fairfax County’s hypothermia program, an outdoor picnic and activity area, and 24-hour staffing with on-site medical guidance and counseling. “That allows us to provide permanent housing with intensive services for our most vulnerable residents,” said Bulova. Residents who would use the facility included veterans, domestic violence survivors, older adults and many with chronic health challenges and disabilities. “It is critical we provide these individuals with the support and services that they need all in one building,” she said.

**BULOVA** thanked the Board of Supervisors and specifically Penny Gross, Supervisor (D-Mason District) where the project was located for their help and guidance. “This was not an easy thing to do,” said Bulova. While Bulova said much remained to be done before homelessness ended in Fairfax County, Bailey’s Shelter and Supportive Housing is a giant leap in that direction.

“It demonstrates an ongoing commitment



**Eighteen months after the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Bailey’s Shelter and Supportive Housing, on Thursday, Oct. 24, guests participate in its ribbon-cutting. From left, Alex Robbins, Outreach Representative for U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D- 11); Michael L. O’Reilly, Chairman of the Governing Board, Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness; Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35); Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Penny Gross, Supervisor (D-Mason District); Alphonso Lopez, Virginia State Delegate (D-49); and Jeff McKay, Supervisor (D-Lee District).**



**“Residents who will use this facility include veterans, domestic violence survivors, older adults and many with health and disability challenges,” said Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.**

**Dean Klein, Director of Fairfax County’s Office to Prevent and End Homelessness said the four respite beds at Bailey’s Shelter and Supportive Housing are for individuals who are too sick to be able to live on their own but not sick enough to be able to stay in a hospital bed in the community. “These beds provide a lifeline that currently, our shelters have struggled to provide.”**

**Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive: “We are on time and on budget.”**



to preventing and ending homelessness. It gets us closer to our goal of making homelessness, rare, brief and nonrecurring. ... There will always be people who are having difficulty and end up being homeless, but that should be brief, that should be ... unusual. There should be safety supports there to help that person get back on his or her feet, to be able to become a productive member of the community, and realize their potential.”

Penny Gross recalled the long journey to



**With Michael L. O’Reilly, Chairman of the Governing Board, Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness looking on, Penny Gross, Supervisor (D-Mason District) presents a framed historical photo collage of Bailey’s dating back to 1861 to the new Bailey’s Shelter and Supportive Housing.**

this day. “One fraught with challenges, a few scars, but the effort has been worth it. Throughout the entire process, respecting all opinions, we recognized there is dignity in every person regardless of need as our guiding principles,” Gross said. She said the original shelter opened in 1987, spearheaded by faith-based communities. Over time, that shelter experienced much wear and tear. It was not accessible for people with disabilities, didn’t have sufficient space to serve the people who walked in the door and there wasn’t enough space for staff. “That was then. Today we are celebrating a new Bailey’s Shelter and Supporting Housing,” she said.

Gross spoke about two framed art pieces she had in her office, one, a drawing of the Patrick Henry Family Shelter, the other, a photograph of the original Bailey’s Shelter. “They sit on the floor, propped up in front of my desk. Why? I decided long ago until we were able to house every homeless person; those pieces also would not have a permanent home. They provide a reminder every day of the goal we try to reach, ending homelessness in Fairfax County. Today, however, I have another framed art piece, and this one I don’t want to see propped on the floor as a reminder but hung somewhere in the new facility as a reminder of the history of this area...I’d like to present to Bailey’s Shelter and Supportive Housing this historical photo collage.”

Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive, thanked the staff and said that the State-

SEE SHELTER, PAGE 5



# Bailey's Shelter Opens 'on Time and on Budget'

FROM PAGE 4

gic Plan Committee looked forward to shaping the future of the county, and this (motioning to the shelter) was how they were developing it. "This is a new Fairfax County. We have to continue moving forward and ensuring that all are taken care of," Hill stated.

Dean Klein, the director of Fairfax County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, said what Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing ultimately offered was hope. "What a critical model this is, to leverage resources to be able to provide emergency shelter space with staff and be able to use that same staff to ensure that we are developing a community. This new facility allows for this type of community, individuals who in fact have been isolated, living on their own, been living in our wooded areas and cars, or have lacked the level of support that they needed from individuals, their families, or others." Klein said the activity room would provide overflow to their hyperthermia program. In addition, they would be partnering with the Health Care for the Homeless program, which will ensure there would be a full-time nurse practitioner able to support individuals in the emergency shelter part of the facility and those in permanent supportive housing.



**The new Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing located at 5914 Seminary Road in Falls Church, is the first of its kind in Fairfax County designed with the flexibility to ensure multiple needs of guests and residents can efficiently be met in one location.**

Klein thanked artist, Dana Schuerer of Reston, who designed the mural in the plaza area. "Very impressive," he said.

**PAMELA L. MICHELL**, Executive Director of New Hope Housing, addressing Gross and Bulova, said, "It's not always popular doing

homeless services...People have misunderstandings, and it's only because people (like you, who) have the courage this happens, so thank you." Concluding her remarks, Michell described the shelters' residents, guests and how Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing 'screamed' hope and hospitality.

"Think about what it must be like to be first time homeless. Do you know where to turn; are you willing to talk about it to anybody and ask for any help? Probably not. You're depressed.

You're traumatized. You have nothing materially but also don't have any self-worth probably. We've read a lot in this world about how the environment is so important to people's success. If you are traumatized and depressed ... it is very important that the environment you have leads you to want to be in some other position. We often talk about art in office space and home and school, but I want you to think about it in terms of homeless shelter ... The thing that I love most about it (the shelter) is it is bright, and it says the world can be different for you. We hope that it will indeed be different, not only with all the supports but just the environment it has created; that it says to people, you are important; your life can be different, and we are here to help make that happen."

Klein said there are three other shelters in Fairfax considered next for renovation or rebuilding — Embury Rucker Community Shelter (Reston), Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter (Richmond Highway) and Patrick Henry Family Shelter (Falls Church). A 21<sup>st</sup>-century facility design similar to Bailey's could be used as their model.

PHOTO BY MERICA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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## 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](http://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](http://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:

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314

By email:  
[editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)





The local Moms Demand Action group at the victory celebration.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

# Smiles All Around at Democrat Victory Party in Fairfax

Gun violence prevention topped the action list for many

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Pizza and smiles dominated the Fairfax Elks Lodge on election night, as area Democrats won big in Fairfax, with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors shifting further into blue.

Jeff McKay won the Chairman race, getting 67 percent of the votes, while Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) hung on to keep his seat in the Springfield District. Rodney Lusk will take over as Lee District Supervisor, while Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) was uncontested in Mount Vernon.

The results were slow coming in at the party in the Elks Lodge main hall, but as they came in, the applause grew for each office. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) greeted the packed room.

Roberta and Jack McKay, Jeff's parents, were glad they could finally vote for him as



Supervisor Jeff McKay's parents Roberta and Jack.

he ran for Chairman, an at large office, since they live in Mount Vernon and couldn't vote for him as Lee District supervisor. They've seen his interest in politics grow since Jeff was in high school, and were glad to spend time with their grandchildren while Jeff shook hands at the polls.

"Somehow he knows a lot of stuff," said Jack McKay. Everyone in the family had a Jeff McKay for Chairman tee shirt on.

A sea of red tee shirts identified the local "Moms Demand Action" group. The action they refer to is preventing gun violence. They were focused on the Dan Helmer-Tim

Hugo race.

"We're the boots on the ground," said Heather Foglio, a Fairfax resident that supported Helmer. "[Hugo] voted against every gun safety bill," she said. Helmer won with 54 percent of the vote. Hugo was the last Republican representing Fairfax County in the General Assembly.

Jordana Schmier spent the last few weeks knocking on doors with her sons Avery, 12, and Jeremy, 9, and brought the boys to the victory party to let them experience the other side of campaigning.

"It's an opportunity for them to see how



Delegate Vivian Watts talks to a constituent.

many care about what we did, knocking on doors," she said.

Avery Schmier hopes, "it means that there are no shooters in the schools," he said.

Delegate Kathy Tran (D-42) was there with her children too, and came right from the polls in her district where there was a big turnout.

Tran said top issues for her constituents included healthcare, guns and women's rights. "I think we've done everything we can do," she said early in the evening, and that turned out to be right on target. Tran won her seat by 57 percent.

## VIEWPOINTS

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

PHOTOS BY BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

"Reduce college expenses, safe bus stop areas."  
— Mara Hennesy, 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

**L**ater 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

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."

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

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D Northern Virginia Community College

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# NEWS

## 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](http://lwv2019.eventbrite.com)

Questions can be directed to: [PR@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto: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](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

#### 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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# Garden Replaces Rolling Valley Sign

Monument sign is now a colorful garden.

By Mike Salmon  
The Connection

A light dusting of snow was on the ground last winter when a car left the roadway and destroyed the Rolling Valley monument sign, which was letters on a brick structure. The sign is right outside Bob and Sue Erskine's house, so they went into action over the spring and summer, using their gardening skills to replace the sign with a garden to honor the community.



In early February, a car ran off the road into the sign.

## Rolling Road Widening

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is looking at widening Rolling Road and according to the presentation they gave the area residents in February 2018, this intersection will be rebuilt with a traffic signal and crosswalks.

The \$78.9 million Rolling Road project is scheduled to start in 2019 and will be done in two phases. Construction on Phase I will begin in fall 2019, and focus on the Old Keene Mill Road intersection.

The Greeley Blvd.-Rolling Road intersection will be in Phase II, which "includes widening Rolling Road from two to four lanes between Viola Street and Old Keene Mill Road, signal upgrades, pedes-



The Erskine's went into action and now this garden occupies the space where the sign was.

trian and bike facilities and improvements to access management," VDOT information stated. The whole project is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

VDOT has worked with Fairfax County to consider alternative de-

sign options, including the possibility of undergrounding utilities. This option was evaluated based on feasibility, potential property impacts, cost and schedule. This is no longer being pursued due to cost, VDOT said.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Sabrina and Ruby Shabman, 4, dressed as a ladybug, from Fairfax.



Lucas Couto, 3, as Dory the fish, from Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY DENISE LEW/THE CONNECTION

## Area Children Go Trick-or-Treating Around Fairfax

The Mosaic District hosted its annual "Bootique Trick-or-Treating Spooktacular" event on Wed., Oct. 30 in celebration of Halloween. Hundreds of whimsically costumed children walked store to store to fill up on sweets and

treats. The film "Monsters, Inc." played on the "screen on the green" to top off the fun-filled evening. Other venues such as Fair Oaks Mall, Tysons Corner Mall and indoor play spaces also hosted trick-or-treating events, giving shelter from the rainy weather.



Grace Dingell, 1, from Fairfax.



The Kersey family: Shawn and Inga with Holly, 4, and Craig, 10.



Creatively costumed children line up for treats at a store in the Mosaic District.

## State Senator Marsden Speaks to the Rotary Club of Springfield

The Rotary Club of Springfield (RCS), provides speakers with a Book Certificate for a book donated to a local elementary school library with a label inside the book, noting for whom it was donated. This idea started with the Rotary Club of Williamsburg and was brought back to RCS by Past District Governor (PDG) Jack Wilson. Virginia State Senator Dave Marsden (D-37) spoke on the issues this past year at the State level. Because of a constituent with severe epilepsy, he is in favor of legalizing non-psychoactive CBD oil from the cannabis plant.



State Senator Dave Marsden with Phil Sternberg, President, RCS, both holding the Book Certificate.

PHOTO BY G.C. (GARY) BLACK, III



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# CALENDAR

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

## 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](http://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/lornton](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lornton).

**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](http://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](http://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/](http://braddockwrestlingclub.shutterstock.com/). Or contact William Flynn at [bflynniv@verizon.net](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fairfax-station.org) [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](https://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:VFS.GMU.EDU) or contact Cynthia Fuchs at [cfuchs@gmu.edu](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Joaquín 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](http://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, 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. The production marks the Virginia Opera debut of stage director Crystal Manich. Tickets are \$45-\$115. Visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu).



## ENTERTAINMENT

# Lush Musical Journey of Love and Longing

Area premiere of “Il Postino” (“The Postman”) from Virginia Opera.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Opera enthusiasts and newcomers alike are in for a special pleasure as Virginia Opera’s production of Mexican composer Daniel Catán’s tragic-comedic “Il Postino” (“The Postman”) arrives at the Center for the Arts.

Based in part on the 1994 Academy Award-winning film, “Il Postino” recalls the imagined life of exiled Chilean poet Pablo Neruda as he provides his long-suffering, love-struck postman, Mario, with poetic words to reveal his heart to the love of his dreams. As Neruda wrote, “Love is so short, forgetting is so long.”

“Il Postino” is a universal tale about the bumpy road to finding love. It features a score with arias, duets, and music paying homage to Puccini. The music will be conducted by Adam Turner. The orchestra for this production is provided by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Crystal Manich directs “Il Postino,” the first of the Virginia Opera “From Screen to Stage” initiative.

“Many of the stories from the most beloved masterworks in the operatic canon come from literary sources,” noted Turner. “Recently I’ve noticed contemporary composers looking to cinema for inspiration. Importantly, a good story is what ultimately resonates with an audience, and some of today’s best stories can be found in the world of cinema.”

“The music of ‘Il Postino’ is richly evocative of the language of love, poetic and passionate, rapturous and lyrical, full of beautiful melodies and the peaks and valleys of human emotion,” said Turner. Daniel Catán’s musical language is “creative orchestral textures, vivid word painting, accessible lyricism, a sense of ‘magical realism throughout the score.’”

Turner added that Catán’s music composition is “the furthest thing from ‘scary modern music’ that you’ll ever encounter.”

For director Manich, “The blending of Pablo Neruda’s poetry with Catán’s sweeping music portray a journey of finding meaning and love. This is a much needed sentiment in our tumultuous world.



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
VIRGINIA OPERA

**Crystal Manich,**  
director, Virginia  
Opera production of  
“Il Postino”



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS  
COOPER/COURTESY  
VIRGINIA OPERA

**Daniel Montenegro**  
who portrays Mario,  
the long-suffering  
and love struck  
postman in the  
Virginia Opera pro-  
duction of “Il Postino”  
 (“The Postman”).

## Where and When

Virginia Opera presents “Il Postino” at Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$110, \$70, \$40. Call 888-945-2468, or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu).

**Note:** Sung in Spanish with English supertitles. A pre-performance discussion begins 45 minutes prior to the performance, located on Monson Grand Tier. Seating is limited and opens 15 minutes before the pre-performance discussion

“Throughout ‘Il Postino,’ there are moments of heightened reality directly attached to Neruda’s poetry. These moments will be visually expressed through the use of projections, as if the characters are being transported to a higher realm where poetry exists,” added Manich.

Tenor Daniel Montenegro portrays the featured role of Mario, The Postman. “Catán is often compared to Puccini and I can see why. They both are melodic and possess beautiful sweeping lines.” But, Catán “has his own unique sound and style.”

“Il Postino,” a transporting musical journey to find the love of one’s life awaits.

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM  
Sunday School 10:10 AM  
Sun. Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM  
Family Night – Wednesday 7:15 PM  
Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult  
Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups  
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19/20  
Season



**AUTUMN CELLO  
& DVOŘÁK**

SATURDAY, Nov 16, 2019

8 P.M.



SUNDAY, Nov 17, 2019

3 P.M.



The ASO welcomes the changing of the seasons with Elgar’s Cello Concerto in E minor with cellist Wolfgang Schmidt and Dvořák’s Eighth Symphony under the direction of Maestro James Ross.

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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

**Announcements**

**Employment**

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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 in its case 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" Herry (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 Mobasher 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/](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/2019-election-results/)



# 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](http://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](http://www.fairfaxlions.org) or call 703-879-5795.

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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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